

April 14, 2000

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 60, Number 8

BLUEPRINT

From Woodstock to Acalanes...

Good Gravy!

It's Wavy!
Pg. 12

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Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

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ON THE COVER: Wavy Gravy and senior Theresa Collins feel the burn....or something???



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Seniors Andria Flakoll, Hannah Hens-Piazza and Brian Connolly get funky to a recording of Brittany Spears, finishing their last paper as Editors-in-Chief.

Blueprint 1999-2000

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff.

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A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

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CLASSROOM VANDALISM

Students Throw Pre-Easter Eggs

By Danny Ebert and Jason Ahn
Staff Writers

Acalanes English teacher Bob Jensen was shocked Monday, Mar. 20, when he walked into his first period classroom, P-10, with the intent to get a jump start on a great week, only to find his classroom had been burglarized and vandalized.

"I unlocked the door, and was astonished to see the room trashed, papers on the floor, the computer and (English teacher Janet) Carlson's boom box missing. I went to get (Associate Principal Ron) Dygert, and he got the police," said Jensen. P-10 wasn't the only room that was vandalized. Carlson's room, P-7, suffered the same abuse. "Eggs were thrown against the T.V., VCR, and the iMac,

and the older computer was stolen," said Carlson.

Police were bewildered to find that there had been no sign of a forced entry upon either room, and that the assailant(s) had locked the doors before leaving. "I remember turning the key to unlock the door before school," said Jensen.

The week prior to the burglary, Carlson had a substitute fill in for her who misplaced the set of keys to her rooms: P-10, P-7, and "when I came back, I had heard that the sub had misplaced her set of keys to my rooms," said Carlson, "but oddly enough the room I share with Mr. Nolan, room, wasn't broken into."

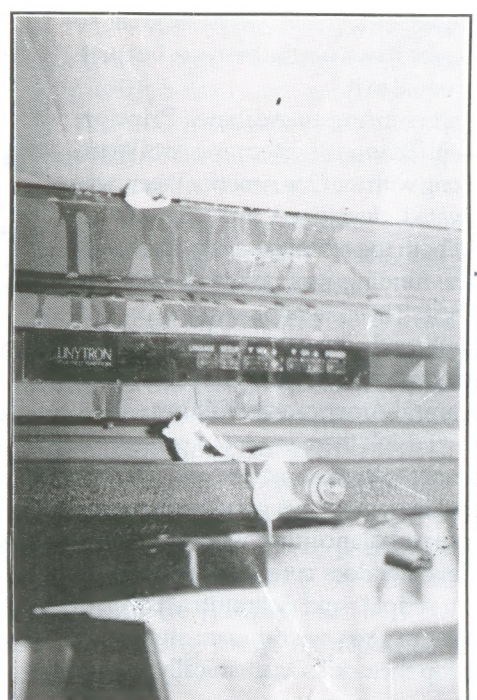
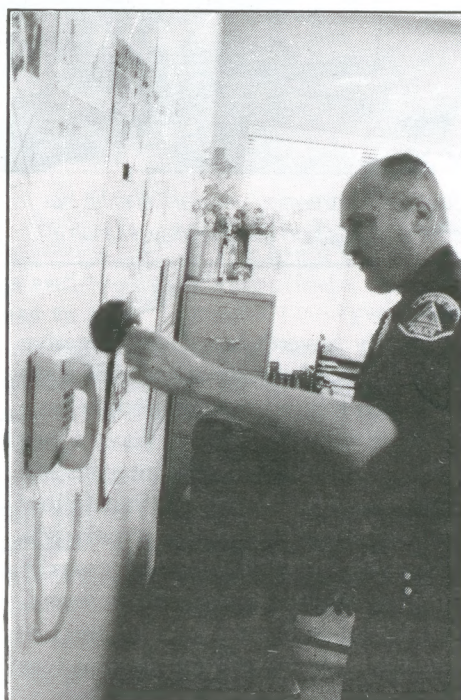
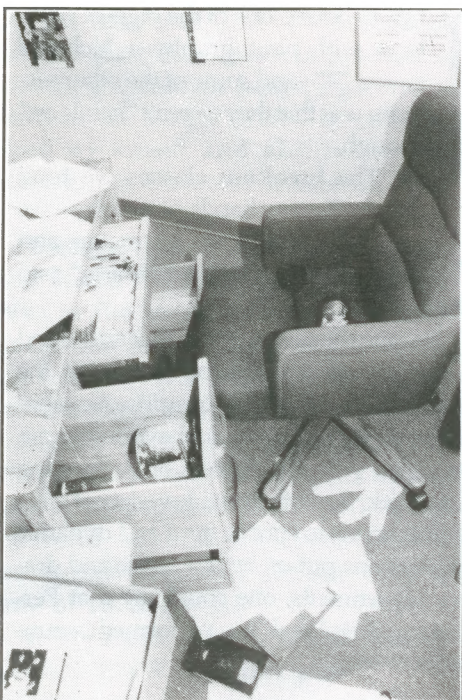
According to Principal Schmidt, a maintenance crew had to "clean [the

mess] up".

A source from the Lafayette Police Department who wished to remain anonymous has fingerprinted both rooms, and will further inspect the rooms for more leads on this case. The teachers whose rooms were vandalized, are coping with having to re-input scores into a computer, and dealing with other inconveniences. "I'm really disappointed, it's been a hassle having to re-input all of my grades," said Carlson.

Schmidt said the possible motives for this act of vandalism are revenge or and boredom, and he also said that this type of juvenile act is "typically found among [people] younger in [their] development" in order to get their "jolies".

CLASS VANDALISM



Blueprint Photos/Will McCosker

PERFORMING ARTS WEEK

Students Call LASF Project a Success

By Blake Koelmel

Post-Production Editor

Students and faculty alike arrived at their first period classes on Monday of the first annual Performing Arts Week knowing that the week could either become the most popular event since "Lance and Luke," or could become yet another opportunity to bash the Acalanes Administration and LASF.

With the strange scheduling and Wavy Gravy's "mind blowing" opening, some doubted that it would be any different from the controversial One America Week two years ago. Since then, however, many students and faculty feel that Performing Arts Week has been a huge success.

"I went into this week feeling unsure that it would be anything different from One America Week, especially after Wavy Gravy's opening," said senior Trevor Wagner. "But by the end of the week I felt that it was a huge success."

A veteran of many such events, Math teacher Richard Klier even ventured to say that this was the best week ever.

"In my experience, this is the best we've ever had," said Klier. "But...you know it's easy as you get older to forget something that was really great, so maybe it was not the best ever but pretty equal to it."

According to Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt, Performing Arts Week, along with the One America Week, was created, developed, and orchestrated by both the administration and LASF. The funding was provided solely by LASF. Their intentions were to provide students with an opportunity to expand their realm of comfort and knowledge within the arts and American subcultures.

"I think there is a lot of pressure in this school to think short term, which is natural and in some ways good, and we want to counterbalance that with a longer range view; life does consist of more than just a transcript," said Schmidt. "Life is about balance. Yes, we do want students to develop their skills academically, but we also

want them to develop life long skills and interests, to explore their own creativity, and to be simply more than just a scholar."

To more accurately gauge the opinions of students, *Blueprint* recently conducted a survey about Arts Week. After tallying up about 250 completed surveys, it seems that LASF and the administration have finally hit a chord with the Acalanes students and faculty, despite several questions raised

up."

On a scale of one to ten, both the juniors and the seniors rated Arts Week at a "7.5" and the aspect of Arts Week they liked the most was overwhelmingly the breakout sessions. The underclassmen gave arts week a "6."

"I loved the breakout sessions," said senior Kristin Johnson. "African Drumming and Salsa Dancing were so cool. I loved learning how to Salsa."

As with anything that requires participation from a large number of people, some things did not go as smoothly as planned. There were some people that left campus cut-free, and, as junior Kathleen Walsh pointed out, there are a significant amount of students who are reluctant to get actively involved in school events.

"Mostly it was just individual attitudes," said Walsh. "It is tough to let your defenses down and have a good time if ten guys are acting like jerks and being disrespectful to the teacher."

The *Blueprint* survey also showed that the session with the highest ratings (1-10) was Salsa, which received an average score of 9.5, and the session with the lowest rating, 2.3, was photography. According to sophomore Dawn Bouey, one of the biggest problems with photography—which she gave a "4"—and some of the other sessions, was that they weren't "hands on" enough.

"The breakout classes we took didn't offer any hands-on activity—we just had to watch the instructors and didn't learn much about the arts," said

Bouey.

Despite the several flaws that are bound to surface with any school-wide event, the people and students that comprise Acalanes and everything it stands for have once again prevailed with the success of Performing Arts Week. So, with the wide variety of breakout sessions to choose from and dynamic productions put on by the music and drama departments, one could say that Performing Arts Week has performed beautifully.



Maria Zvetina, a flamenco veteran, shows her moves to students at a session on Tuesday, March 21.

about Wavy Gravy's opening.

"I really haven't heard any negative feelings," said chairman of the LASF committee Bob Kelso. "Several people have asked me what the point of Wavy's presentation was. The whole point of his story was supposed to be you can follow your art, you can do things that make you feel good and that are good for the world, and you can still be a success in the world. He intended to get to this point, but unfortunately, I had to tell him the time was

Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

NEWSWEEK RANKINGS

Acalanes Ranks in Narrow Rating System

By Scott Schwertscharf
and Chris Kim
Staff Writers

A list of the top 450 high schools in America published in the March 13 issue of *Newsweek* ranked Miramonte at 130, Campolindo at 149, and Acalanes behind the other schools at 214, using a narrow set of criteria which has led many educators to question the validity of the ranking.

Schools were ranked on a ratio developed by Jay Matthews, education reporter for the *Washington Post*, when he published a similar list two years ago. The score given to each school was acquired by dividing the total number of Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by the number of graduating seniors.

Many educators are quick to point out that the ratio of the list is based on an extremely narrow set of data. The list does not take into account the size of the student body at any given school, nor the scores received by the takers of the AP and IB tests.

"AP tests are important but they are only a small indicator," said Principal Keith Schmidt. "They're like one snapshot out of a photo album."

Hypothetically, a small school could enroll the majority of its student body in AP classes, but those students could receive a score of one or two on the AP test, three to five being a passing score. This school would therefore have a high ranking on Matthew's list, but the quality of work would be low.

"I was disappointed that a lot of things weren't factored in, score being one of them," said Acalanes teacher Marshall Pfeiffer. "The school program, criteria for graduation, and the breadth of requirements seem to me much more important

than that one individual thing...AP tests are a very good way to indicate if a student can do college level work, but it shouldn't really be a criteria to judge the quality of the class or school."

Matthew's ranking system disregards the score received on the AP or IB test, the number of AP courses offered, and the size of the student body. Statistics from the College Board, the company who devised the Advanced Placement system, show that Acalanes administered 423 tests taken by 242 people; just 32 less than the 455 tests taken by 231 people at Miramonte. Campolindo administered 321 tests to 169 people. Las Lomas gave only four tests less than Campo, but because of their large student body, they were not able to make the list.

Miramonte offers the most AP Classes out of the three schools, with 20 different subjects. Campolindo had 18 different subjects, and Acalanes had 14. In terms

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1/1/00

	Acalanes	Campolindo	Miramonte
Matthew's Rank	214	149	130
Matthew's Ratio	1.434	1.605	1.675
# AP Tests Taken	423	321	455
#AP Subjects	14	18	20
% Scores 4 or better	67	56	69

of scores, Miramonte had 69% of the candidates score a four or higher, Acalanes close behind with 67%, and Campolindo farther behind with 56%.

"We have to be suspicious of any ranking," said Mike Myslinski, spokesperson for the California Teachers Association. "There are so many variables: poverty, geography, funding, and teacher turnover. It's very different for each school. There are also questions regarding the availability of AP tests especially to minorities. America tends to be fixated on rankings, but they don't tell the whole story. We take them with a grain of salt."

STAR TESTING POLICY

State Pressures Schools to Test Students

By Nathalie de Leon
and Kevin Medeiros

News Editor and Staff Writer

A subcommittee of the California Board of Education has advised that schools should be required to test at least 95% of their students in order to qualify for state funding awards, a measure that the board will vote on in the summer.

The Stanford 9 (STAR) test is used to determine school performance in California. The results compose the Academic Performance Index (API) which ranks all state public schools. AHS ranked high this year's API, based on last year's STAR tests.

AHS tested 97.9% of 9th graders, 96.4% of 10th graders, and 91.5% of 11th graders last year, for an overall testing rate of 95.2%.

However, schools such as Northgate High in Walnut Creek failed to test an adequate number of students. Northgate tested 66% of its students (grades 9-11) last year, falling far below the 95% mark.

Ann Bancroft, spokesperson for the State Secretary of Education, said low testing rates "undermine the collection of data" and that the tests are necessary for the Governor's proposed Accountability Program. "There are two concerns: one is schools have low testing rates. The other is...we need a more

accurate picture statewide," said Bancroft.

She added that there will be individual incentives to take the test seriously, such as scholarships for high scores. However, she added, the state needs local cooperation.

Many Northgate students did not take the test because "many students and parents felt it was an unnecessary waste of time

to make the students take a test which they thought would have no impact on them," said Northgate Vice Principal John Perner.

Northgate senior Pallavi Parthasarathy said that she took the test, but some of her friends felt that the test was pointless.

"Most kids...thought it was a waste of time.... We didn't even know half of the subjects, and people didn't want to go through with it again," said Parthasarathy.

Northgate has made plans to raise the percentage of students that take the STAR tests. This year the school held many informational meetings in order to inform the parents and students of the importance of taking STAR tests, according to Perner.

Another incentive Northgate High School is offering is that "every student who takes all five STAR tests will have their names put into a lottery which will have

if we do well on tests," said Parthasarathy.

Acalanes High School is also implementing programs to test more students. Principal Keith Schmidt said that the school cannot force students to take the exam, but there are other ways of getting a high testing rate, such as placing the test results on transcripts.

"It's amazing how much more seriously people take things when you put it on transcript," said Schmidt.

Counselor Sally Porter said that she hopes the new policy that students have to stay in study hall if they opt out of the test will discourage students from having their parents sign them out. Furthermore, the reading section score will be used as part of the competency test.

Despite these new policies, 37 AHS students still signed out this year.

"It seems pointless and I have better

things to do.... I had a biology test to study for," said junior John Wurzel, who had himself signed out.

However, this year, Acalanes STAR testing rates increased, with 98.4% of 9th graders, 97.4% of 10th graders, 92.2% of 11th graders, and an overall rate of 96.2%.

District Business Manager Larry Larson added that the tests are "only usable when you test everybody...especially when reputation is at stake,

(and) dollars are at stake."

Larson also said the district loses money for students called out of STAR testing.

Larson believes that the individual-orientation of the exam will encourage students to take it seriously. Earlier, "kids didn't take it seriously...because they only gave the results to teachers," said Larson.



Blueprint Illustration/Victoria Yu

prizes that the local business community has donated," said Perner.

Parthasarathy added that some faculty members have offered their own incentives for testing. "Teachers told their juniors that they wouldn't give them letters of rec if they didn't take STAR testing.... (They) also told students that real estate value would go up

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

District Announces New AUHSD Leader

By Nathalie de Leon
and Kevin Medeiros
News Editor and Staff Writer

After extensive candidate interviews and meetings with the superintendent search committee, the School Board will select a new superintendent and introduce the new top educator to the community on Tuesday, Apr. 18.

The Board worked out the specifics of the contract and discussed hiring the new superintendent in a closed session on Tuesday, Apr. 11, according to District Consultant Rudy Gatti.

The new superintendent will replace the outgoing Dr. James Perino, who has served in the district for 11 years.

According to several members of the committee, the panel of approximately 30 community leaders interviewed the seven final candidates in a closed, prepared session. The interview consisted of a "strict menu of questions," according to Principal Keith Schmidt.

District Personnel Manager Dr. Bev Sadler spoke to the candidates about pre-set criteria on which the committee had previously agreed. Since December, the board, staff, community, and Gatti have worked to develop a list of qualifications for the prospective superintendent. Each committee member was asked to rank candidate responses and offer comments based on the pre-determined qualifications.

"They (the qualifications) had to do with...leadership skills, commitment to excellence, being a team player, and a team builder," said committee member Stan Oberg.

The committee's work culminated in the single interview of the final seven candidates, but the process allowed for no interaction, according to Schmidt. Members were not allowed to ask spontaneous questions, discuss the process with

outside members of the community, or take papers out of the room. The committee gave its suggestions and thoughts on the issue to the School Board after the March 27-28 interviews, and the School Board made a final decision on a single candidate.

Several committee members added that they would have enjoyed a more interactive process, but they realized that the process would have been long and tedious. They also indicated that the Board should be making the final decision.

"The Board has a perspective.... They'll have to work with (the superintendent) intimately. But on the other hand, you have a community used to having a voice," said Schmidt. "Their major role will be to pump us for our opinions. The Board will certainly know how the committee feels, but I don't know if the committee will know how the Board feels."

"We only got two hours to discuss it with (the Board) after many hours of interview...and I didn't feel that was really enough time to represent all our views, but the Board did have a lot more information than we did," said committee member and Acalanes senior Mary Thomas.

Many committee members felt that the process was very sensitive to the community's needs.

"With all the parent's, teacher's, student's, administrator's, and business member's input all of the different interests in the community were



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

represented," said Parents Club President Hilma Jones.

Jones said that the caliber of candidates that applied was outstanding.

"The applicants represented real quality people who's focus all was on the students," said Jones.

Gatti assured the committee, "Believe me. The Board is listening to the community." However, he continued, "The interview is only one part of the process. The biggest indicator of a person's success is their background and past track record."

To check the chosen candidate's background, Board members visited the candidate's district to survey previous successes. Board Member Robert Wood felt that visiting the candidate's old district was an invaluable step in the process of selecting the new superintendent.

"It helped a lot to be able to talk to an insider that worked with him/her on a daily basis," said Wood.

Neither Wood nor Weil would indicate the current district of the chosen candidate.

NUGGETS

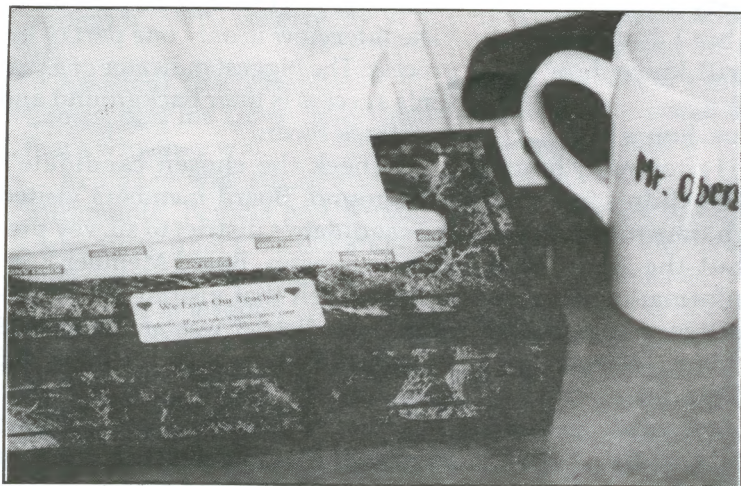
Apple For the Teacher

By Katie Burroughs
Staff Writer

For Teacher Appreciation Week from Mar. 27-31, AHS students organized teacher survival kits—complete with Advil—and affixed a large sign atop the roof facing the quad to remind students to thank their teachers personally.

According to senior Mary Thomas, who helped organize Teacher Appreciation Week, the biggest feat was making cards out of thick, red cardboard in the shape of apples for each teacher at school. They were passed around for students to sign. "Organizing the apple cards was time-consuming because we had to make sure all the cards had enough signatures. It was all worth it in the end though, since teachers are usually under-appreciated," said Thomas. After receiving the cardboard apples, the teachers were treated to a Teacher Breakfast Wednesday morning. To burn off the calories from waffles and syrup, they played pick-up basketball against students on Friday. The teachers also received hand-painted mugs with their names neatly written upon them.

English teacher Erik Seebass said, "It was one of the high points of the year so far. My fifth period class is insane, but in a charming way. I loved hearing from students from earlier classes. It's the first mug I have ever had that won't get stolen."



The teacher appreciation package, in addition to the personalized mugs, had the bare necessities, including boxes of tissue.

Admin Chooses 2 Theaters

By Phil Peyron
and Scott Schwertscharf
Staff Slackers

After going back and forth, the district has decided on preserving the current drama building and constructing a new performing arts theater on the site of the current senior deck.

Initially, the district seemed sold on a one-theater plan. Now it appears that pressure from the drama department has swayed the district towards the more expensive two-theater plan. According to a district letter released in the past year, the two-theater plan would cost \$6,427,237, as opposed to \$5,485,278, for the one-theater plan.

The plans for the new drama room construction are currently being approved by the State Architecture Board. If approved, construction will start in summer and will be completed towards the end of the 2000-2001 school year, according to Assistant Principal and Drama Teacher Tom Eggertson.

The plans for the new theater include lowering the stage of the current theater and building a separate theater for drama and musical productions. Also, new performing arts classrooms will replace the senior deck and lawn. During construction, next year's drama classes will be held in the

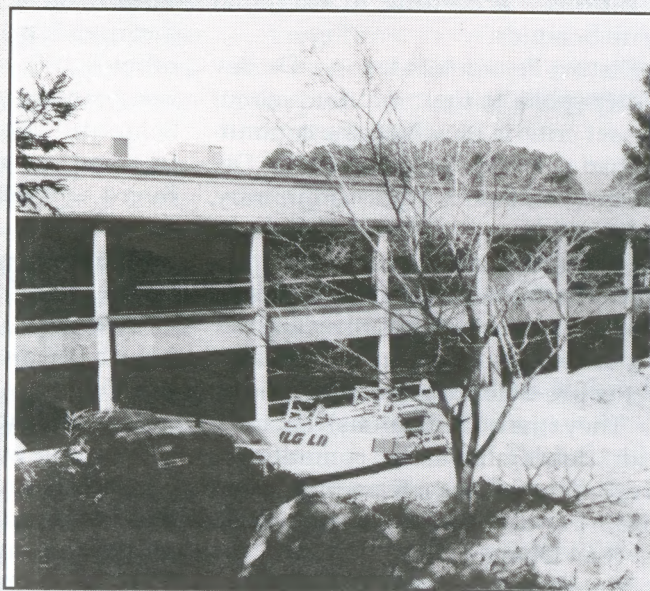
cafeteria and in room 506.

Those in the drama program felt that a two-theater plan would be more effective and better suited to the drama program. Others wanted to take down the whole theater and build a new, larger one. However, the existing theater has over \$500,000 invested in it and holds hundreds of props and costumes. "The administration promised that no department would be undermined by the construction," said Eggertson.

Furthermore, the district will demolish the senior deck and the memorials that surround the area. District Business Manager Larry Larson said, "I think it would be appropriate to try to decide on a new location for the senior deck next fall with the help of the leadership class and the student body."

Many current juniors have complained about this decision because they would not have a deck their senior year. "It's really unfair. I had always looked forward to sitting (on the deck), and now it's going to get torn down," said junior Rob Darlington.

CONSTRUCTION



It's Almost Done! The new two-story wing of Acalanes High School is nearing completion. Despite the bad weather conditions, the new construction is reportedly right on schedule. The new building includes about 15 new classrooms.



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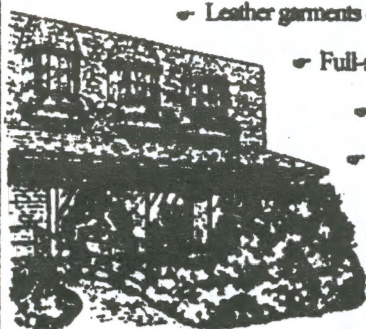
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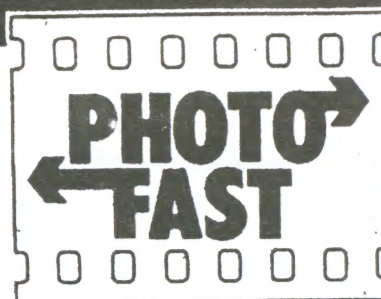
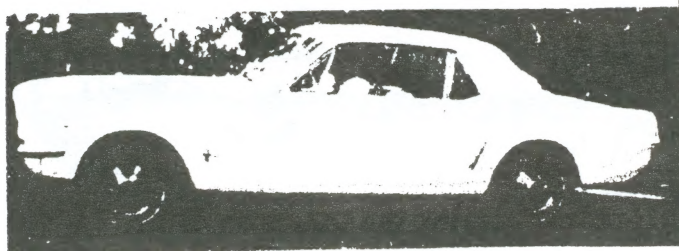
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INSIDE

Wavy Gravy

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DRUNK DRIVING

Every Fifteen Minutes...

By Danielle Cooke
Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Lauren Goldman was killed March 14, 200 by a drunk driver. She was driving home after purchasing her Junior Prom dress when she was hit head on. She died instantly. As the police lifted her body from the car the blue dress she had so carefully lay beside her, sat unharmed and just as beautiful as it had been when she first fell in love with it.

Officer Tom Cashion heaved a huge sigh as he read this to Lauren's 3rd period English class at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek.

The students sat in silence knowing this was no time to laugh or crack a joke. Eventually relief blanketed the students when they saw Lauren the walking the halls the next day. No she had not died, but taken part in a program called Every 15 Minutes put on by Las Lomas, John Muir Hospital, The Walnut Creek Police Department and sponsored by Channel 7 News.

I arrived at Las Lomas around 8:30 Tuesday morning where I was greeted by the anxious participants of Every 15 Minutes. Inside a small room sat students with gashes across their necks and foreheads, bruised body parts, red blood and deathly expressions. It was here I met Lauren and was told the plan.

A drunk driving accident was to be staged at S. Broadway. All Juniors and Seniors would be escorted to the scene where student participants would act as if a real drunk driving accident had occurred. 16 students would have already been taken out of class and pronounced dead to their classmates. Their obituaries, which had been written by the parents, were read, and their mouths were sealed for the duration of the day. They had been "killed."

I joined Lauren in her 3rd period class. It seemed normal, with a regular grammar les-

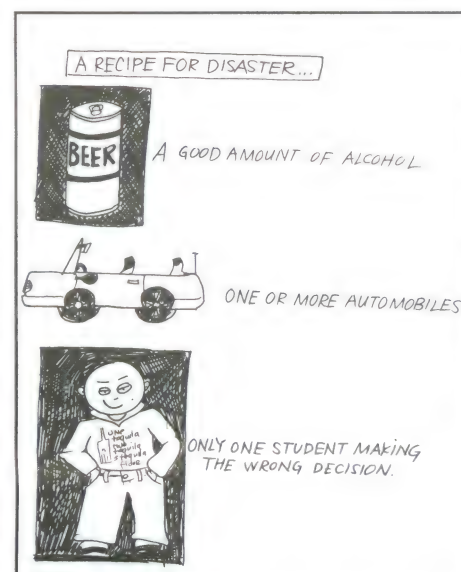
son until a police officer entered the room joined by a man in a cape and mask, the grim reaper. Officer Cashion asked Lauren to leave the room as the Grim Reaper soundlessly pointed to the door, acting as the bearer of bad news. Lauren's obituary was read to the class, and then the officer left, leaving the class speechless.

I sat in on 3 more of these "deaths." Each just as dramatic and traumatizing as the first. Even though the students knew their friends had not died, the expression of pain compassed the faces of the students, along with the teachers, one of whom could not help but shed a tear.

A graveyard was placed on campus and cardboard headstones for the dead students were set upon the grass. A few blocks away two actual cars that had been involved in a drunk driving accident were placed as though they had collided. Debris surrounded the cars along with beer cans and bottles. The four students chosen to be involved took their places.

I sat in the faculty room at 9:15 when an emergency 911 phone call was played over the school loudspeaker. A frantic girl claimed she had seen an accident occur off of Broadway and there looked to be injuries. After the announcement students began to evacuate their classrooms and report to the scene. As I arrived blue tarps covered the vehicles. The tarps were removed and the scene was shocking.

The blue van had two students, the male passenger was hanging out of the smashed windshield and the female driver helplessly trapped within the mess of the collision, both lay unconscious. The truck held a male driver and a female passenger who were more fortunate than the students in the van. Both sat conscious with minor injuries. The police arrived and questioned the driver of the truck who said he had been drinking and was going about 40 mph when he crossed



Blueprint Illustration/Victoria Yu

over a center divider and hit the van head on.

Two fire trucks followed by an ambulance soon arrived at the scene. The passenger of the truck was taken in a stretcher to the ambulance and rushed to John Muir. The other victims, however, were not as easily retrieved. Using a tool called the Jaws of Life the fireman grabbed the driver from the van. The roof was then cut open and the passenger whose body was violently twisted across the windshield and the hood of the van was pronounced dead. The coroner then put him in a body bag and carried the boy's lifeless body into the coroner's car. The eyes of the students now looked to the sky where a helicopter circled to capture the fading life of the van driver. She was rushed into the helicopter and flown to John Muir where she spent her final minutes.

The truck driver was given a D.U.I. test where he had to touch his nose and walk in a straight line. He was found guilty of drunk driving, handcuffed, arrested, read his rights, placed in the cop car and taken

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

New Rehab Program Extends A Hand

By James Sherwood
and Sam Cunningham
*Feature Editor and
Opinion Editor*

This article is the third and final installment of Blueprint's look at the California Juvenile Justice system. This piece examines specific individual cases to see which methods of rehabilitation are truly effective.

Seven years ago, Jonathan Vasquez was first sent to Juvenile Hall. At the age of eleven, he stabbed another boy whom he feared was going to strike him with a bag full of bottles. Vasquez was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and found himself on the wrong side of the bars. He served three months in Juvenile Hall in Martinez and was placed on probation until the age of 18.

At the recommendation of his parole officer, he became involved in the Yolo County School System (abbreviated CCC). The program has been in operation for four years, taking under its wing juveniles between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. Joe Dudac, an outgoing, enthusiastic mentor, is the head of the CCC.

"It's a whole new world to them. It's a hands on, one-on-one environment.... There's a lot of kids who just need direction, and we try to give it to them," said Dudac.

The atmosphere of the program is one of structured discipline. The students attend class for two hours in the morning and then go to a designated job site, where they work until three in the afternoon before going home.

"The program is about learning the value of hard work and them knowing that they can do it. They just need a chance to prove themselves."

The program has an astounding



Blueprint Photo/Bret Boudreaux

Judging by the peaceful view from outside of Juvenile Hall, it is hard to imagine the struggle currently dividing the fate of young criminals in California.

success rate. Eighty to eighty-five percent of the kids who go through the six-month program do not return to crime, according to Dudac.

Ernie Ortega, a seventeen year-old member of the program, said, "I'm doing a lot better. I want to prove I can go back into society. I now want to start my own landscaping business." Vasquez agreed, saying, "If it wasn't for this (Dudac's program) I'd still be going to court."

Dudac hopes his program can establish a middle ground between the harsh crackdown of recent legislation and the soft 'slap on the wrist' rehabilitation method. His method of granting kids another chance while at the same time working to instill discipline and character seems to bridge the gap between the two opposing viewpoints.

"We try to reach a happy medium. We truly want to help these kids, but they know that if they screw up then they're out."

Although the program seems to

have an impressive success rate, only three like it exist in California." I think this is the most effective system out there. The state really needs to look into this alternative."

Currently, legislation is making its way through the state Assembly that would enhance programs such as Dudac's. AB 1913 would provide millions for the type rehabilitation that Dudac promotes.

If enlarged, the CCC could change the lives of thousands of juvenile offenders. For Vasquez, it already has. Soon he will be off probation and ready to receive his high school diploma. He plans on getting a steady job to support his six month old child.

"I'm trying to better my life. This is definitely something to remember. It really helped me turn things around."

When asked about the effectiveness of Dudac's program, Vasquez paused for a moment, and then said,

"It helps people out...if they want it."

WOODSTOCK LEGEND

His Message Was Wavy....

By Nick Allen and Kevin Medeiros
Staff Writers

Hugh Romney, the man known to the public as Wavy Gravy, is more than just an average "psychedelic relic." Timothy Leary was a psychedelic relic. The late Jerry Garcia was a psychedelic relic. Time passes and we see these 60's counterculture icons drift away, their legacy remembered mostly among those who lived in that era.

Yet, as these so called "relics" fall into the wrecking yard of burnouts, Wavy pushes forward with the same energy and sense of meaning and vitality that has come to represent the spirit of the 60's. One cannot appreciate, in its entirety, the life of Wavy Gravy by reading a biography or even by interviewing the man, and that's the point. Gravy has treated his life as a masterpiece, where every moment of every day becomes a new blank canvas and the color with which he paints is only as brilliant as his actions. The Merry Pranksters, B.B. King, Electric Kool Aid, Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, Woodstock, Seva, and Camp Winnarainbow; all these people, places, and experiences are hues of color in the life of Wavy Gravy. "Eternity now and forever. My best memories are of now because I live in the moment," said Wavy. Wavy sees life more like a revolving door where the exit is the entrance and the entrance is the exit rather than a door with only one direction.

Although you may not find him in the US History textbooks, the presence of Gravy at Acalanes during Art Week brought on a few flashbacks among some of the teachers and faculty that lived during the free-lovin' 60's. As we walked towards the conference room where Wavy Gravy, the man with an ice cream flavor, who blows bubbles from soaring mountain peaks and expounds tales of 60's adventures that still shock and amaze, a legend that has given sight to tens of thousands of impoverished children and maintains the wondrous excitement for life like a small child, we begin to question whether or not we are worthy of an interview with a man of such experience and yet so lacking in con-

vention.

As we sat across from him at the conference table we couldn't help to notice his manner of dress and physical traits, and could only come to one conclusion: Wavy is coming from another time zone. Tie-dyed from his shirt down to his socks, he looked very... Wavy, with small squinty eyes that would disappear every time he flashed one of his

"I try to make my life a work of art," he said in response to a question about his life experiences. It resonated in our ears when we interviewed teacher Mike McAlister.

Judging by his worn hemp tie dye clothes, his aged gray hair, the wrinkled skin surrounding his eye, and his laid back mannerism we couldn't help but think, "Man, this guy is burnt." All the talk of electric cool-

aid, hemp, and being high, we never gave ourselves a chance to think otherwise. That is until he said, "Drugs are immaterial... the highest highs come from spiritual experiences." We then realized that he wasn't speaking of a drug induced high, but of a spiritual high, and that he had moved beyond the use of illegal substances to a higher level.

Later in the interview, after Wavy had thoroughly confused us **again** (as he so often does), he began to answer our questions in a more down-to-earth tone and talked about his theories on life and living. "I try to make being kind hip and cool," he said, with his eyes gently closed. "Live every moment like it is the last," he said, "and just be kind to each other."

Sensing that he mainly just wanted to reminisce about the past, we decided to finish the interview by going down a different path. Reminiscing about the future (as only Wavy can), he said, "I would like to go to Australia to Ayers Rock, which is the

largest rock in the world, and bring the Grateful Dead and other bands to perform the Bigggggggest Rock concert ever." His face twisting to envision more events to come, he said, "I would like to go back to Nepal to the Eye Hospitals and check back into the past."

After leaving Wavy, we discovered that the atmosphere of confusion among the student body and faculty was heavier than it had been in the conference room. When we



Blueprint Graphic: Will McCosker and Victoria Yu

trademark grins and frizzy white hair that made him look like a psychedelic mad scientist with humane intentions.

We overcame the initial shock of being in the same room with one who seems to be a cousin of the long lost Doc Brown, only instead of being *Back to the Future* he was Forward into the Past. We began to ask our questions, to which he responded with cryptic messages about life and the occasional mile-long tangent: a true Wavy experience.

WAVY GRAVY (CONTINUED)

met 6th period for Blueprint we began to talk about the interview. Amongst the big blur of assemblies and interviews with students and teachers, we sat, hopelessly grasping to decode the words of Wavy in our heads. Our ears pressed against the recorder as we listened to the interview, we desperately tried to make sense of the nonsensical. Then as he spoke, it hit us like a

strike of cosmic lightning, and we stepped into the revolving door that Wavy existed in, even if just for a second. We understood what he had been trying to say the whole time. "You just have to find the little bit of heaven in each disaster area," he said, the words ringing true in our ears.

Thinking back, there was only one thing that Wavy had said that didn't make sense.

Towards the end of the interview Wavy had said, "We are all the same person trying to shake hands with ourselves," and then shook his right hand with his left. This initially shocked us, but the more we think about it the more sense it makes. And when we think about Wavy with our new-found understanding he almost makes sense...almost.

NEW TEACHER

Spanish Teacher Profile

By **Nathalie Krastev**
and **Srinivas Gupta**
Staff Writers

When it comes to putting together a picture of her ideal life, Acalanes' newest Spanish teacher, Heidi Skavarna, has it all figured out. Her fantasy starts off by first winning the lottery, then traveling around the globe, and finally, finishing the rest of her life in Spain.

So maybe her ticket around the world isn't on its way yet, but reality isn't looking too bleak for this enthusiastic teacher. In fact, she is living another one of her dreams right now. "I've always wanted to be able to use foreign language in some way, and being able to share it with people is great. Teaching it is really fun," said Skavarna.

Besides teaching French for one year, Skavarna has been teaching Spanish, for the past thirteen years. She is currently teaching Spanish I and III here at

Acalanes. Skavarna moved from the suburbs of Chicago because of her marriage at the beginning of the school year.

Growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, Skavarna attended a small Catholic school with about five-hundred other students. She remembers being involved in the student council as well as cheerleading. "The difference, I think, between school then and now is that students are much more involved in extra-curric-

ulars and sports," she said.

Skavarna credits her high school Spanish teacher, for making the subject interesting and fun. "It was due to him that I am now a Spanish teacher," she said.

For Skavarna, the best thing about being a teacher is, "Being able to share information with people and trying to help them to foster their knowledge to go on to the next level of learning." Skavarna loves working and interacting with the high school age group because she feels they are fun and full of a desire to learn.

Furthermore, she likes teaching a foreign language because she strongly believes that having the knowledge is a great tool for students' futures. "If there are two candidates for a particular job, the student with the foreign language experience who can communicate will probably get that job because they are a much more useful employee. "In general, she thinks that Spanish is an important language because of the growing Latin influence in society. "It's really sad that some people think that English is all that they need, because then they are missing so much interaction with different cultures and different people," said Skavarna.

As a teacher, Skavarna has many amusing experiences to look back on. Her most embarrassing moment as a teacher, was while playing Jeopardy with her students. She said, "When my students and I were playing Jeopardy, I

happened to trip over a backpack...I practically flew into the air and landed on the ground, while ripping part of my knee-level skirt." She continued, "After the students checked to see whether I was okay, we laughed and laughed until we eventually started to cry."

As far as her pastimes, Skavarna said, "I love to travel and in conjunction with that, I also love to be outdoors, whether it be hiking or skiing. "With her creative personality and positive outlook on life, Heidi Skavarna has a lot to offer Acalanes. "It's my goal," she said. "To be a facilitator and to help people to want to learn more."



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Mamm

Ms. Skavarna watches with pride as her students do a presentation on matrimony.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

BLUEPIES



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BLUEPRINT EDITORIAL

Even Einstein Gets Skinny Envelope

By Heather Klurfeld
Entertainment Editor

On the first day of college acceptances a college sent to me: one rejection with writing I could barely read. On the second day of college acceptances a college sent to me: a space on their long (and pointless) waiting list. On the third day of college acceptances... never mind. It's all downhill from here.

As most Acalanes students know, whether you're a freshman or a senior, college acceptance letters have been mailed home. And let me tell you, the excitement isn't brewing. In fact, the only thing that's fuming right now is the poor senior who got rejected from almost every college that she/he applied to.

Apparently this year it was not enough to have a 4.0, be class president, and do some volunteer work. No, apparently you had to be Superman or Wonderwoman. They wanted someone who is a nationally-ranking athlete, a published novelist, started an AIDS campaign, and saved people in Bosnia this past summer rather than going to Hawaii with their family. Oh, they also have to have a 4.5 GPA, 1590 on their SATs (although if you can get a 1600 that might help), and have a sunny disposition. Colleges expect all of the above to be completed by the end of high school, typed up in a neat little package, and verified by your teachers.

Let's get one thing straight. We're 17. Just being 17 is hard enough. How do colleges expect that we can accomplish all of these things overnight? And, for those of us who have tried, when is it enough? Really, I love getting 4 hours of sleep every night but apparently it wasn't enough to get me into Yale. I

should have stayed up those extra two hours and studied some more. I could have used the time to start a letter-writing campaign to save the whales or lower gasoline prices. What dumb decisions I make.

From what I've read in the newspaper, though, and what my peers have told me, getting into college this year was tough. When I visited Cornell they told me that 18,000 people applied. I went to a visitors day at UCLA and was told that 37,000 students applied to UCLA. Wow. That's like everyone in Lafayette applying to go to UCLA.

Last year Stanford turned down 4,000 people with a 4.0. Whatever happened to, "If you're a qualified student, you're accepted?" Apparently the definitions of qualified have changed. The dictionary says qualified means "to declare competent or capable." Silly me. I assume that anyone who has a 4.0 could excel at Stanford. I guess Stanford uses a different dictionary than I do.

As a graduating Senior, I have some advice for those continuing their education at Acalanes next year. As Robert Frost once said, "Two roads diverged in yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel them both." As a student about to apply for college, you may follow one of two paths (or, in layman's terms, imagine a Choose Your Own Adventure story where you can't go back and change the ending):

Path #1: You may do as I have done: Work. You can become a habitual joiner, president of every club, join sports, work on the newspaper, become a student leader, do some volunteer work, build homes in Mexico, whatever your niche is. Find it. Excel in it. Get good grades.

Take AP courses. Smile while the alumni interview you.

However, this road must be taken with caution. It does not guarantee you acceptance into a top college—only few hours of freedom and a lack of sleep. In fact, anything that you accomplish can be looked down upon by the admissions officers.

Example: I interned on a movie set for Sony/ Tri-Star in Los Angeles. I was excited to put this on my resume. When I had an interview with an alumni from Yale, she asked me about my internship: "Did you help direct the movie?" "Uh...no..." "Did you help write the script?" "No..." "So, you were just a gopher...?" "Actually, I was a production assistant. I had many more tasks than getting coffee or copying. While on the set I..." "I see..." (now, imagine her glaring at me and making some notes on her paper). Apparently what I thought was impressive meant absolutely nothing. I should have created peace in the Middle East instead. What a dumb decision I made.

I suggest that you should run for President. Sure, you have to be 35, but if you could find some loophole that would allow you to run, even if you don't win, I bet the college admissions officers would be impressed.

Path #2: Don't try in high school. Take basic courses. Participate in sports casually. Get average grades. Have fun with your friends. Sleep. Actually ENJOY high school. Have a life beyond the AP-Cult.

Whichever path you chose, realize that life is a journey: drivers wanted. Wherever your destination takes you, I wish you luck. After this year, you're going to need it.

BLUEPRINT EDITORIAL

The Other Side of Star Testing

Yesterday we wrapped up another round of STAR testing. For the seniors, the past few days have been a dream. For the freshmen they have been a nightmare. Most are glad the tests are over, as we may now get back to our normal classes.

But just as in the past two years, a great deal of grumbling has occurred over the necessity and usefulness of the STAR tests. The consensus among the students is one of hostility towards the whole program. Thirty-seven students were called out of school by parents, while others simply blew off the test by marking random answers or none at all. On Tuesday morning two girls even claimed they were going in order to "protest" the testing.

Such indifferent, uncooperative behavior is not beneficial to our school. Unfortunately, it will continue as long as the perception that STAR testing is useless remains alive.

The record must be set straight, and the obvious values of the tests must be known.

The STAR test provides a standard of comparison on a state and national level. By making all districts give the tests, we are establishing accountability. Using STAR data, educators can determine which schools are doing a good job of educating students, and which are doing a poor one. Directing funds and personnel is more efficient when it's clear where they are needed.

With the economy in such a huge boom, thousands of people are out shopping for homes. Many of them, especially those in communities like Lafayette, are looking primarily for good schools. The STAR tests provide a "consumer guide," for people shopping for schools.

The test also assesses our performance relative to others states. By studying comparable test data from other states, we can deter-

mine how we might improve our schools. The same competition that creates better products in the business world could be employed to produce smarter and better-educated students across the nation.

STAR testing also benefits Acalanes on the individual level. To a college admissions officer, a 3.8 GPA from Acalanes doesn't look too much better than a 3.8 GPA from a weaker high school. Under the STAR testing system however, it would be clear that Acalanes is a high scoring and very rigorous school. Your college transcript is therefore weighted by the fact that Acalanes performs much better than most high schools on the statewide standardized tests. Plus, merit scholarships for high scoring students will be awarded starting within the next year or two.

So quit your whining. STAR testing is for the better. Inconvenient, yes; but useless, no.

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down to the station. The upperclassmen of Las Lomas sat in silence. What had just happened? It couldn't be fake, it seemed so real. I was left speechless, never in my entire life had I witnessed such a thing.

Jeremy Cellenti, a Junior at Las Lomas said, "After viewing this setup accident it has really changed my opinion on drunk driving. Before it was just kind of a thing that was thought about, not actually happened, and now I realize it's real and it has definitely made an impact on my life. Here's one person this simulation has changed."

The facts are overwhelming. Every 15 minutes someone in the United States is killed or seriously injured in an alcohol-related accident. A 16 year old is more likely to die of an alcohol related cause than any other. These are things, as teenagers, we are blinded by or chose to ignore and not see.

Liesl Wiechhart, the driver of the van, commented after the incident. "I was put into the ambulance, then to the helicopter and airlifted to John Muir. As I arrived at John Muir they took me to the emergency room and then they pronounced me "dead". Then my parents came into the room and I had to keep a straight face and keep quiet. And hearing my dad just loose it was the

hardest part for me. It has definitely had a huge effect and I think it will bring my parents and I a lot closer."

The next morning I returned to Las Lomas to see the school assembly. Officer Cashion opened with comments about the previous day followed by a video presentation showing what happened to the student actors after they left in the ambulance, cop car and helicopter. Liesl sat in the hospital as doctors raced around her trying to save her life, while the driver of the truck was put behind bars.

I sat among the students of Las Lomas, I watched them see the people they care about most in the world go through such a traumatic experience. I watched on the video as Liesl's parents entered the e.r. and saw their daughters heart just stop. I watched in complete silence as the tears started rolling down my cheeks. Me, not a student at Las Lomas, with no friends at the school, was overloaded with emotions. As I wiped the back of my hand across my face to dry the tears, I wondered why. Why had I been so affected? I remembered the drunken nights, the D.U.s the M.I.P.s. I remembered myself actually saying, "one sips not going to kill me". And maybe it won't but I sure will feel a lot safer knowing I will get

home in one piece tonight. And it frightens me to think of all the teenagers that don't realize, they couldn't see what I saw that day on S. Broadway. They will never fully understand what can happen and what will happen. I pray that I am wrong, that we will not loose a life to drunk driving. But the way that Acalanes students pound and then get into their car makes me worry. I know reading this article will not stop the students of Acalanes from drunk driving. What I do hope is that they sit down and think about loosing their best friend or think about the fact that you could kill someone. How do you think you could live with yourself knowing that as a teenager you made one stupid mistake and cost one or maybe more innocent people their lives. Liesl Weichhart, David Gibson, and Lauren Goldman get to go home to their parents tonight. They get to go to school tomorrow and live another day, unfortunately in 15 minutes someone else won't be so lucky.

"It really hit home. I think for a lot of students here it shows the consequences of one stupid mistake, one stupid decision, and it's one that I think the people here at Las Lomas will remember for years to come" Junior Brian Luke.

DRINKING

The Folly of Alcohol Control

By Charlie Massie
Staff Writer

American society has always been one that has dealt with certain social activities in a very conservative manner. Specifically regarding alcohol consumption, our culture has been brought up to believe that drinking by minors is taboo and should be dealt with in a very strict manner. It seems that once again American conservative social views are the cause of much pain and suffering in our country.

First of all, what causes a minor to drink? Is it the cool feeling the teenagers get when they sit around a toilet bowl throwing up every meal they have eaten for the past week because they have consumed too much alcohol and are now facing the repercussions? Or is it the sort of rebellious feeling that every "underage" drinker gets when he or she consumes his or her highly "illegal" beverage.

Yet, who is to blame for the awful evenings and hungover mornings that many minors experience when they consume too much alcohol? I choose to blame our culture and not the drinkers themselves.

Ever since our Puritan beginnings hundreds of years ago, our country has thrived on the idea that alcohol was something to be consumed by adults only. Unfortunately for our society, not letting children experience alcohol in a controlled environment where they can be monitored early on and taught to drink responsibly, and yet still have a good time, causes many adolescents to experience terribly unpleasant evenings.

A lot of conservative parents in our society pound the idea into their kids that drinking is terrible and that if they ever do it, they will be punished severely. There is no good that can come out of this. Either the child will rebel strongly against his or her parents and drink profusely, or they will go through

life chiding those who drink, voicing how evil and vile drinking is.

To simply solve this problem, parents, and our society, need to realize that the best way to deal with minors drinking is to slowly introduce children into the world of alcohol at an age where they can be taught to drink responsibly yet enjoyably. If that child then chooses not to drink, that is his or her own free right. However, using a strict approach towards the consumption of alcohol by minors will most likely lead to problems, fights, and simple unhappiness within the family. People need to realize that "underage drinking" is not a bad thing, it is not something to be looked down upon, as long as it is done responsibly. The social conservatives of our country need to realize that their puritanical and ignorant approach

to alcohol consumption is backwards and not beneficial for anyone.

Finally, it is important for people to realize that the constant policing of minors by their parents and the authorities with regards to alcohol consumption is as effective and beneficial as an AP US history lecture. The minors will learn nothing and just feel more rebellious. There is nothing more exhilarating than running through the hills, dodging the authorities, and living to tell the heroic story. Yet the Lafayette and Contra Costa County authorities don't realize this and continue their futile goals of stopping the underage drinking that occurs. It is time for people to realize that alcohol consumption is something that can be enjoyed by all if it is done responsibly.



Blueprint Illustration/Victoria Yu

A Few Words on an Inspirational Generation

By **Hannah Hens-Piazza**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

When I was in New York City recently looking at prospective schools for next year, I was immersed in a young and diverse culture. I saw a protest in the street against police brutality that consisted very much of college-age people. And I realized that what I was looking at was *my* generation. But what mark will this generation leave?

Other generations have had difficulties to overcome and obstacles to face. Our country has been through depression, world war, military drafts, and times of extreme economic decline. But what have we, the pioneers of Generation Y, had to face as a group?

It is this very notion, I believe, that shapes us—this notion that we *haven't* had to live through national hardships. Our purpose cannot be defined by overwhelming national or international forces that would be impossible to ignore. Instead, the definition of Generation Y comes from what we choose to do in a time of relative peace and prosperity. In some ways, that makes the burden greater. Our purpose must come from what we individually decide to address.

It would be easy for us to sit back and

relax during our spare time, especially with all of the new advancements in technology that have come in our time. But instead, I think our generation has chosen to act—to speak when we deem necessary and to fight for the individual causes that we support with protests or letter-writing campaigns.

Our generation has been responsible for protests against the School of the Americas and Chevron's alleged human rights abuses in Nigeria, both of which were attended by Acalanes students.

But while the inspiration for other generations has been external, our inspiration to make changes must come from the inside.

And when there were tragedies that we had to face, we faced them with courage. When teenagers were killed by their peers—by *our* peers—in Columbine, students across the country organized anti-violence committees in and outside of their schools. We even considered what causes in society may have led to their alienation.

Taking a stand is usually not the easiest way to live, though. A recently published article in the *New York Times Magazine* focused in on teens in the suburbs and the

boredom they face, and the article's author spoke specifically to teens from local community Danville, CA.

As I read the piece, I realized we have two choices as a generation which has faced minimal struggle. We can choose to be bored, or we can choose to take on a struggle, to challenge, and to make opportunities for ourselves. And this choice is based on our generation's one struggle—to find a purpose for ourselves as national and world conflicts are diffused.

We live in a time where virtually anything is possible. With the resources that we have today, we could explore other planets, build cities under water, or create highways in the sky. But all these efforts would be for naught when we consider what good we could do for humanity instead. We are not merely determined to be winners, as were past generations in their causes, but rather we are determined to be fighters.

As poet Edwin Markham said, "We are blind unless we see that in human plan, nothing is worth the building unless it builds the man. Why build those cities glorious if man unbuilt goes? In vain we build the world unless the builder also grows...."

The Land Of Opportunity Ends At the Border

By **Andria Flakoll**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Have you ever had a person come into your life, and in a split second they make you see the world differently? There is something about them, they move you. I recently met a young boy at Rancho Santa Marta, a school for orphans and children with special learning needs, in Baja California. He lives with seven other boys his age and a foster couple. He is an orphan with a learning disability, and the ranch is his salvation.

Without this special home and education, he would be tossed out of the Mexican public schools, which don't have the time or resources to spend on learning disabled kids. My youth group spent spring break on the ranch doing building projects that will help the children. As my friends and I were sitting with the boy at lunch a smile overwhelmed his face, as he told us, in broken English, about the one time he had visited

the United States and his hope that he would move there someday. I was truly touched but also extremely saddened.

I doubt that his dream will ever come true. I thought about all the immigration restrictions we have in the United States. How is this boy ever going to overcome them, and if he does come to live in the U.S. will it be as an illegal alien, resented and used by almost everyone he comes in contact with?

Borders, immigration issues, and the economy mean that this young boy might never be given the freedom to live where he wants to live, and be who he wants to be. In Mexico, he has a slim to none chance of making it above the poverty threshold. It took an American missionary couple who founded and run the ranch to give him any chance of a decent childhood and perhaps livelihood.

Crossing the border into Mexico is like going back in time. As you drive into Tia-

juana and take a glimpse back at the United States you see San Diego with the Coronado bridge, skyscrapers, and plush homes. Then you turn around and you see dilapidated shacks and poor dirty four year old children trying to see you Chicle. While one society lives in relative luxury, tossing millions around in the stock market game, another society lives just a few miles away in shacks selling bubble gum for a living.

United States citizens won't give up their wealth to help the poor in Mexico, and the United States government won't give up its anti-immigration policies. Sure, hard working Americans worked for their wealth and immigrants mean overpopulation. But the least we can do for the young boy and the millions of others living in extreme poverty is Mexico, is to be thankful for our own lives, donate our time and resources to help, and promote awareness of the problem. Before you take anything in your life for granted, take a look across the border.

PRO/CON

Curfews or No Curfews...

...that is the question

By Peter Deng
Copy Editor

It's Friday night. No one wants to be at home. And no one wants a curfew. The Lafayette curfew is a bitter pill to swallow, but it is good for the safety of the community and the safety of the raging teenagers.

There is the generic argument that "It's a free country," and, "I can go wherever I want," and, "It's not the government's responsibility." These concepts might apply to more mature people, but not to all teenagers. There is age appropriate behavior; we don't see babies drinking champagne from their bottles. And behavior, such as drinking, is limited nationwide to 21 years or older. Curfews have evolved to prevent abuses of inappropriate behavior. Precluding teenagers from leaving the house also precludes teenagers from binge drinking at an illegal party.

Deserving the most concern is drinking. We know that it exists, but we don't see seniors toting around 6-packs of Budweiser, yelling "WHAZZZAAAAAP" in bright daylight. The drinking problem occurs at night, and the curfew exists to check the issue. Some may argue that these curfew laws are loosely enforced. Considering the mind-boggling size of the Lafayette Police Force, they are being enforced pretty well. This law also forces the conscious student to think twice before he goes out to drink fermented horse piss. Not only will he be drinking illegally, but he will also be driving illegally.

In addition, a lot of dangerous, illegal activity takes place late at night. Two boys, seeing unpopulated roads, might decide to race their cars at fatal speeds. There are instances where young, precious lives were taken by a small challenge. Damages extend further than the lives of the two drivers. Innocent bystanders might also be injured, their lives being ripped away ruthlessly for being at the wrong place at the wrong time. And the families of the injured suffer and grieve over lost loved ones. Curfews are designed to curb such rash behavior and save young and innocent lives.

Maybe the government doesn't need to go to such extreme measures as to limit the movement of a free citizen. Maybe if parents could step-up and educate their children on alcohol and when it is appropriate to consume it, there would be no problem. Maybe if some parents cared enough to know where their children are and what they are doing, everything would be happy. And if teenagers can make the right decisions, the curfew would be obsolete. But until then, this is what needs to be done.

By Damon Diederich
Staff Writer

Sure, sure...we've all had curfews at one time or another. Our parents always seem too eager to see us back after a night out. Still, parental curfews are a part of our teenage existence and we should not worry too much about them, as parents have always exercised control over their children's lives.

City enforced curfews are a different story from parental curfews, however. Our own city of Lafayette has a curfew of 10 PM weekdays and 11 PM weekends for those under 18. The poor enforcement of the curfew is another problem with it. According to the Lafayette Police Department, there were only four arrests for curfew violations in 1998. Of the four, three of the criminals were turned over to their parents for punishment. Their parents probably did nothing to discipline them. The weakest link in the curfew argument is that, more often than not, curfews are enforced by parents who don't care about city rules.

A notable example of lax curfew enforcement was the recent Junior Prom, which ended right at 12 AM, curfew hour. The local authorities knew that hundreds of students would be violating curfew, but did nothing about it. Curfews should be enforced strictly, or not at all.

Lately, the Local, State and Federal governments have been taking more and more responsibility away from parents, with such laws as curfews and the recent Teen Driver Safety Act. It is not the place of the government to take on the role of parenting. It is unfortunate that the government believes it necessary to take the job of parenting away from parents, as it is not their place to do so. Children under 18 are the charges of their parents and, as such, should be taken care of by their parents. I know of no children who are directly raised by the state, so it is wrong for the state to directly restrict kids from doing as their parents please. It is not the government's place to tell parents how to raise their children. It has always been the parent's sacred duty to care for and protect their children, including deciding what is and isn't appropriate for their children. The enforcement of curfews by the government on any level is unacceptable as it takes rights away from parents and places their kids under unfavorable laws. It should be up to parents and kids to decide how they will live their lives and the government should not interfere with this process.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

I am writing in regards to a number of issues with the march 17 Blueprint. As a whole the paper has been branching out more into the outside world as of late, which is quite good.

In this most recent issue one feature article entitled "A Rally Cry for the Republicans," about Sen. John McCain's visit to Diablo Valley College. Soon it was apparent that as Ms. De Leon had castigated Sen. McCain for "anti-Clintonian democratic rhetoric," while she herself was filing the article with anti-McCain rhetoric, even calling McCain a "rogue senator." It may or may not surprise Ms. De Leon to know that the definition of rogue is a tricky, dishonest, or worthless person. Of course hindsight is twenty-twenty, as the writer commented on the "dying candidate" running a "doomed campaign" that would succumb to the "inevitable." This being done so after the fact with as little insight as the Monday morning quarterback saying that the team shouldn't have fumbled the ball and probably would have won if they had scored more points than the other team? Not to say that the article was completely bad, there was quite an amusing quip about the rally being "an amalgam of rock concert and cafe packed with pseudo-intellectuals." But as Ms. De Leon says, "the media [are] too... self-important." But I suppose that doesn't matter for a reporter writing a pseudo-editorial.

There are instances where there have

been poor editorials or articles written without any supporting evidence. Such as "Cable TV or Desks? Tough Call..." a recent and purely inflammatory editorial without any evidence to back it up. Unfortunately, Ms. Hens-Piazza failed to do her homework on this topic. If she had done so she would have known that the cable TV was offered as a free service by ATT&T Cable with no cost to the school.

There are two editorials that stood out in the last issue as superior and some of the best I've ever read in this publication. The first is Charles Massie's "Prop 22... The End of Conservatives." Mr. Massie takes note of the perplexing situation that the Republican party is currently entangled in. Don't fret Mr. Massie. You're still Republican, but the party no longer is.

Another fine column was Sam Cunningham's "But What a Campaign it Was..." This well written narrative was one of the finest that I have ever read. It was truly superb in encapsulating all of the great aspects that there were about John McCain, and also the great aspects that he was able to bring out in America. I was affixed to every word and look forward for more to come. You truly do have a talent Mr. Cunningham.

Of course it would be unfair for me to dish it out without being able to take it. If anyone would care to respond to this letter I would most certainly welcome it.

Sean M. Scheinder

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

I would like to question the support displayed by much of the Acalanes senior class for Senator John McCain's bid for the Republican nomination for president in 2000.

McCain has an extremely poor record on gay rights, and students should be aware of this aspect of him before throwing their wholehearted support behind a candidate with such views.

Senator McCain is adamantly opposed to having gays serve openly in the military, and he was one of the leading supporters of Proposition 22, which banned any and all forms of gay marriages.

These views are a slap in the face to the gay community, and should be condemned by all Americans, gay or straight, as we try to progress towards a more equal society.

Hopefully, the Acalanes McCain supporters were unaware of his history of gay rights but nevertheless, this episode should serve as a lesson to all.

In order to be a productive member of a democratic society, it is up to us as citizens to take the initiative to find out the views of our leaders.

Sincerely,
Vijay Sekhon

FASHION SHOW

Senior Fashion Show: A Model Event

By Nick Allen

Staff Writer

I couldn't tell you who was wearing the best outfit, or which designer brand clothing was being strutted down the runway, but even a fashion retard such as myself knows good entertainment when he sees it. This year's Senior Fashion Show had enough style and glitz to appease the harshest fashion critic, but it was the clever showmanship and hilarious antics of those involved in the show that really made it fun for the less "fashion conscious" like myself.

The theme of this year's fashion show, "Road Trip Into the Millenium," was centered around a road trip across America, with different sub-themes at every stop. In Dallas, for example, the models (for lack of better word) would come out in cowboy attire and dance around.....like cowboys to country music. In Aspen, everyone wore baggy snowboarding clothes and did a choreographed dance to hip-hop, and in San Francisco, they went to the clubs in their best tuxedos.

The Fashion Show was at its best, as I said earlier, when it was less fashion and more show. Roger Curtis and John Shogan, the emcees of the evening, led the audience on the road trip with songs, skits, and some pretty random acts that left the audience in stitches. In fact, nothing was out of bounds for these guys, who did everything from skits about television to cows, and repeatedly lusted after a picture of Patrick Swayze. Among a slew of other funny skits was a brief number in which "Flash", also known as Senior Elliot Randall, works his way into a VIP Lounge after impressing the door man with his slick moves.

On top of the hilarious skits were a few little gimmicks that made the Fashion Show a good time. As models came down the runway, they would do little mini-skits, which could be as simple as striking a pose or as flashy as break dancing in front of the entire crowd. The teachers sitting at the front of the audience winced a bit when things got a little raunchy during the San Francisco portion of the show, but seemed generally pleased with the show's overall school appropriateness. In the end, the audience walked away smiling and the participants looked like they had a lot of fun too. Oh yeah, and they looked pretty good too.



M.C.'s Roger Curtis and Jon Shogan entertain the audience by re-enacting a



Senior participants boogie down in their fashionable attire during the Hollywood scene.

TALENT SHOW

Talented Students Perform Under Big Top

By **Nathalie Krastev**
Staff Writer

Dancing. Singing. Stunts. Fireworks. Ok, maybe not fireworks, but we did have some technical difficulties). Move over Ringling Brothers. Step aside *Star Search*. Here comes Acalanes.

The Acalanes Talent Show, which took place on Thursday, March 23, provided all attendees with great entertainment. The hosts of the evening, Juniors Will McCosker and Alexandra Ayoub displayed of humor with unique touch of style. During the program, with the help of Alexis Klein, they performed some amusing comedy sketches inbetween the acts.

Groups like "The Band With No Name," featuring Greg Lau, Nisan Perera, Austin Feren, and the Salocks brothers in addition to the band entitled "Miloko Plus," featuring Evan Benway, John, Sankey, Dan Wright, and Cassidy Lavorini, provided the crowd with a mix of alternative music.

A variety of solo acts also entertained the crowd. Tenaya Hurst demonstrated her vocal talents, Cassidy Lavorini combined both the saxophone and the piano while singing to some jazz, Erika Staaf played guitar and sang, Marimikel Charrier performed two beautiful pieces on the harp, and Jan Pochop displayed his musical ability on the classical guitar.

Some participants opted for a more humorous approach to let their talent shine. Vicki Traverso and Jessica Reid got down and dirty in a skit they called, "A Little Dirty X 2", and Dave Lettis and Evan Pricco charmed the audience when they became the "Backstreet Brothers" in an amusing lip sync to the Backstreet Boys.

There was also a little bit of dancing at the talent show. First, Emily Hoffberg and her dance partner performed a snazzy swing dance. They were followed by Jac-ki Komisar, Danisella Mancina, Lindsey

Jenkins-Stark, Grace Woods, and Kelsey Jones, who performed a dance they choreographed and sang to Christina Aguilera's, "What a Girl Wants."

Some Acalanes faculty also made an appearance on stage. In fact, one of the biggest surprises of the night came when none other than Everett C. Woolfolk and Cliff Shaw showed off their talent in a musical performance which they named, "Just Cause." It was a side of them no

has won the talent show for the second year in a row, said, "They didn't really make that big of a deal out of winning....I do it more because it's fun and my friends get to hear me."

Pochop said, "I was actually pretty surprised.... I wasn't expecting anything."

According to Tom Eggertsen, one of the talent show judges, there was no criteria given on which to judge the participants. He said he gave points based on preparation, audience reaction, and the choice they made to exhibit their talent.

Problems with the sound arose repetitively throughout the program, and interfered with many of the performances. Jenkins-Stark complained that the song her group had prepared to sing to was played too loudly and that their microphones were not turned on, making it hard for the audience to hear their voices.

"It looked like we were lip-syncing even though we had spent time to practice the song for quite a while....You have to prevent that somehow if you are on sound crew," she said. "We would have gotten everything perfectly right if everything went right with the sound....That was the problem."

McKosker agreed that the show could have been improved. "We worked with what we had....I just think it was a matter of communication," he said.

"We did our best. We did what we could," said Klein.

Despite some of the show's technical faults, it was enjoyed by the students who watched. "I didn't know all these people could do all these different things and I'm very impressed," said sophomore Lauren Whitlock.



Seniors Evan Pricco and Dave Lettis a.k.a "the Backstreet Boys" perform at the Talent Show.

one had ever seen before.

"Hopefully the kids appreciated it," said Woolfolk. "It is important for me to communicate with the kids." Woolfolk had always played the saxophone in school but he didn't begin playing in bands until he was eighteen. Although he is not currently in a band, he said he reserves his "musical experiences" for special events.

Another teacher, Richard Klier shared some stories with the audience as well.

This year's winners were Marimikel Charrier and Jan Pochop. Charrier, who

Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

MOVIE REVIEWS

Do Whatever It Takes to Avoid The Movie

By Elisabeth Geier

Staff writer

Whatever it Takes (Marla Sokoloff, Shane West) PG-13

About halfway into *Whatever it Takes*, a beautiful girl frantically chugs down her drink and jumps on a tilty-whirly carnival ride. We all know what happens next. As it turns out, this scene isn't the only vomit-inducing moment in the film. If I didn't know better, I'd think the makers of *Whatever it Takes* were trying to make their audience sick. It's so full of overblown cliches and imitation of other, better teen flicks, it's hard to believe any serious effort was put into making this film.

In a plot based on the classic tale *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Ryan Woodman (Shane West) and Chris Campbell (James Franco) weave a web of false pretenses to help each other get their respective dream girls. Ryan, along with every other male in his school, lusts after campus sexpot Ashley Grant (Jodi Lyn O'Keefe). Unfortunately, he hangs out with the freaks at school and plays the accordion in his underwear at home—making his case with Ashley nearly impossible. Ryan's best friend is Maggie Carter (Marla Sokoloff of TV's *The Practice*), who lives oh-so-conveniently right next door to him, and they have heart-to-heart chats from their respective bedroom balconies every night. Maggie is the token "alternative" character in *Whatever it Takes*. We know she's more than just a pretty face because she reads Salinger and listens to the Eels. Resident ladies' man Chris has been after Maggie for a while, but she would sooner lick Richard Simmons' armpit than speak to him. So Ryan tells Chris how to woo Maggie, and Chris hooks Ryan up with Ashley, but as they get closer to their goals, it becomes apparent that perhaps the boys wanted the wrong things in the first place. Gee, guess who ends up with who in the end.

There are one or two funny moments in *Whatever it Takes*, none inspired by the main characters. Ryan's mom, played by Saturday Night Live alum Julia Sweeney (*It's Pat!*) is the nurse at the high school, and she has a choice scene involving a larger-than-life model of the male genitalia. And Maggie and Ryan's wacky buddy Floyd (Aaron

The Blueprint Guide to Do-It-Yourself Teen Flicks

You're staring at the newspaper on a Friday night, eyes glazed over, mind numbed by the uninspiring options offered by this week's movie listings. Nothing new catches your eye, and you concede yourself to an uneventful evening of driving around with your friends. But then it hits you: rather than waste your Friday night doing nothing, why not make a movie of your own? On top of that, why make just any old type of movie—you saw *10 Things I Hate About You* and *Drive Me Crazy*. Why not make a fabulous fun-filled teenage romp of your own? Here, Blueprint offers a simple three-part guide to making your very own modern high school comedy. Whichever direction your film making takes you in, remember the golden rule of teen comedies: there's no such thing as too much cheese.

Step One: The story. You have a number of great formulas to choose from. There's "Shy Guy Falls for Scene Queen," or how about "Best Friends become More than Friends," "The Date from the Wrong Side of the Tracks," or my personal favorite, "Changing Her Look makes her Popular Over Night, but Maybe Popularity Isn't All It's Cracked Up to Be." Keep in mind you can combine formulas for an especially heartwrenching motion picture. You can also steal a story from the masters, like Shakespeare and John Hughes. Whichever format you go with, you must include at least one David Arquette in training, a denial of friends in favor of the popular elite followed by recognition of the error in one's ways, a main character with a deceased or deserting parent, and finally, an unlikely couple making it work!

Step Two: The cast. Your film will go nowhere without at least one attractive star with a three-part name from a television show on the WB. Now it may prove difficult to get Sarah Michelle Gellar or James Van der Beek to appear in your homemade picture, so aim a little lower—say, Vampire #4 from episode 61 of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, or that Andi girl from *Dawson's Creek*. As long as you can put "WITH STARS OF THE WB" above the film title on your posters, you're golden. Which brings me to the next portion of this simple plan.

Step Three: Advertisement and Promotion. In the business of selling candy-coated teen flicks, it all comes down to one promotion tool: the hot soundtrack tune. Your movie won't fly if you don't secure at least one boy band or pop princess to contribute a song to the soundtrack. Again, the biggest stars like NSYNC and Christina Aguilera will not come cheap, so you're better off trying a little lower down the TRL line-up. Perhaps LFO or Hoku will take time off from their busy tours of America's shopping malls to give you a groovy tune. And once you've got that hit single on your hands you can make a funky video featuring the stars of your movie and draw in droves of seventh grade girls (you realize this is your actual target audience). After the video is in heavy rotation on MTV, send your stars and soundtrack contributors on television shows like *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*, or if you can't score spots on those hits, Nickelodeon's *All That*. It's all about publicity.

If you follow this guide to modern moviemaking, you'll surely have a smash on your hands. Take advantage of the opportunities a blockbuster offers, like professional connections with Hollywood high society and tie-in deals with Target stores. Just don't let success get to your head, and remember to keep it real.

Paul, a certifiable David Arquette-wannabe) adds some typical but much-needed comic relief in the midst of the angsty lameness provided by the four leads. But even the wacky antics of the supporting cast can't save this one from being offensive to any fan of the great high school films of the past. Aside from the classic tale that it is based

on, *Whatever it Takes* borrows heavily from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Sixteen Candles*, and even more recent fair like *She's All That*. I can appreciate a fun fluff flick as much as the next teenager, but *Whatever it Takes* crosses the line between familiar cliches and steps into rip-off territory making it too painful to enjoy.

JUNIOR PROM SATIRE

A Little Party with a Big French Toast

By Jenny Jun and Lexi Matsui

Staff Writers

The night you've been waiting for sixteen or seventeen years has just passed you by. How are YOU going to remember it? Loved it? Hated it? Something in between? Well, however your night of high school bliss went, you're left with one defining question: was it worth it?

Of course, whether you're a girl or a guy on prom night makes the "worth" completely different. Girls spent time and guys spent cash. Or, maybe you just showed up in a borrowed dress with your best friend, split the cost of tickets, and hit Mickey D's for dinner.

Most of the Acalanes junior girls spent Saturday, March 25 waking up at six to shower, do hair, makeup and nails, stress about their dress(which looked perfect), stress about their date(who was planned two months ago), pick up the boutonniere, get admired by family, take pictures with friends, and finally go to dinner and pretend to be relaxed (but are really worried that one curl might fall out of place while dancing).

Should we even get into expenses? Perfection (in the form of a long, elegant-but-sexy, strappy-clingy number) could cost between \$30 and \$300. Perfection's sidekicks (pumps that weren't too high but not too low, but just right to be photogenic and comfortable) may have been from \$15 to \$200.

Money can't buy natural beauty, but fortunately, it can buy the hairdo that brings the whole outfit together, the "kiss me" makeup that your date will die for, and those french tips he won't even notice (but you're girlfriends will and that's all that matters).

And guys, how was your Saturday afternoon? Wake up before one? Actually, we do you give you credit. A rented tux (anywhere from boring butler to gorgeous groom) could put a \$50 to a \$300 dent in your crisp pocket. And let's face it, those tickets weren't from the 99 cent store. The dinner that was so meticulously planned also might have lightened the load in the wallet. And, did your date



Senior Greg Conlon and juniors Zoe Palitz, Katie Ramp, Cecily Miller, and Matt Johnson enjoy the pre-prom gathering where parents got a last glimpse before the limos came.

Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

even eat the whole thing?

Pre-prom anxieties consumed many of the Acalanes juniors up until the big night, but hopefully by the time dinner rolled around, they were relaxed, looking fabulous and ready to rock to the beat of a mediocre DJ who was still living in the 80's.

The fairy godmother who came and changed our small gym into a wonderland au Paris must have been truly talented. As you entered the gym a huge Eiffel Tower stood beaming with a lavish dessert bar. In the adjacent corner, a cartoonist was bringing smiles into the happiest moment of your life. If you stopped dancing long enough, you might have also seen the espresso machine or the roving photographers looking for the "Candid Camera" pose.

Just looking around, it was amazing how everyday people you see at school with exhausted, sagging eyes, strung-out hair, and one of those it-smells-clean-enough-so-why-not-wear-it outfit, had suddenly been transformed from total scrubs to all-out glams. By that time, prom was over. It had passed by in a wink or dragged on for eternity.

But, when the clock struck twelve, the fuss was over. But those nice parting gifts, "vases," will be priceless memorabilia.

What happened after prom was a whole different story. Maybe you went home, washed up, and dreamt of dancing the night away. Or perhaps the prom was only the precursor to the main event. After a wild night of drinking, hotel rooms, cold showers, and toilet bowls, the best memory might have been the Astrojump, holding hands, or first time 'I love you's' in front of an amazing Sunday sunrise. However you spent it, here's hoping you made prom night a night to remember, assuming you were conscious.

When you dragged your feet back to school on Monday, everything had returned to plain old pumpkins. The magic was over, the fairy dust had been swept up by the janitors. But don't fret juniors, you still have senior ball next year. And for the overly-impatient, there's still a few weeks to kiss up to those seniors this year who haven't already found their Cinderella or Prince Charming for the ball.

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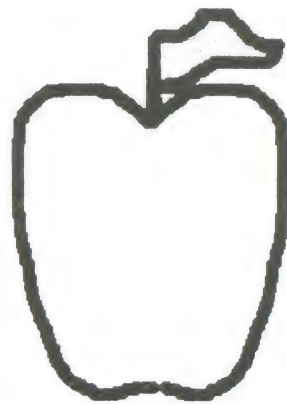


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TENNIS

Dons Defeated by Loveless Rival

By Kristy Mayer
and Lauren Gong
Staff Writers

Acalanes and their archrival, Campolindo, met again on the asphalt courts, as the Dons suffered a second agonizing defeat to the overpowering Cougars.

Besides these two losses, however, the boys' tennis team has served up a successful season so far, winning all the rest of their games.

The boys' tennis team is relatively young this year, consisting of 15 incoming freshmen and sophomores and 15 returning players. Coach Tony Henning says that although the young players may hold the team back in the beginning of the season, they will improve rapidly and add strength to the already solid core of veteran players.

"We're not as strong as last year. We have a lot of young players, and we lost a lot of doubles players, but I expect we'll improve a lot by mid-season," said Henning.

In order to prepare for a winning season, the team is mainly focusing on creating aggressive doubles players, along with adding strategy and consistency to all players' games.

Henning said, "The team is fairly strong this year, but we need to work on doubles players' control of the match and aggressive serve and volley.

The season began with a very close loss against Campolindo. Acalanes started out in the lead, winning four of the six singles games but Campolindo swept all the doubles games in three close matches. The final score, 5-4, was decided by the number three doubles team, who lost in a third set tiebreaker. Number two singles player sophomore

Scott Mackenzie comments on the Campolindo game saying, "We were ahead 4-2 with all the singles done, then we lost 1 and 2 doubles, so it was 4-4. The last match was number three doubles. There were about 50 people there from Campo. The match was played in the dark. Even though we didn't win, it was really exciting."

The following games against Dublin and Concord resulted in victories for the Dons. Dublin was shut down 9-0, and Concord was crushed 7-2.

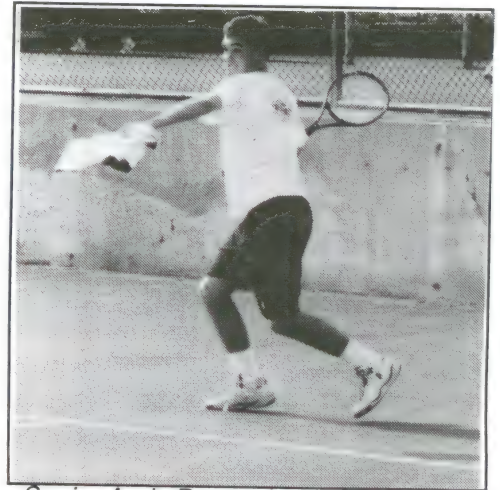
The following game against Las Lomas went smoothly, with Acalanes winning six games to Las Lomas' three. Most of the singles games were successful, with help from the addition of senior Devin Gallo to the number six singles spot.

"With Devin Gallo as an added singles player, he adds a lot more depth to the team. He's just another good player that we can put in singles so we can work more on doubles," said sophomore Gabe Golfus.

Following the Las Lomas win, Acalanes swept Alhambra with a final score of 9-0, even though they were missing their top three singles players. Led by Senior Andy Byrne, playing number one singles, Devin Gallo playing number two, and senior Blake Koelmel playing number three, the team had a relatively effortless victory.

Acalanes continued the season with a second loss against Campolindo, with a score of 5-4. Acalanes started the matches well, and halfway through the game they were up 4-1. They lost their last singles games, however, giving Campolindo the final lead of 5-4.

The singles line-up was changed slightly in this game, as Henning



Senior Andy Byrnes hits a forehand shot in a recent match.

switched the positions of sophomore Matt Baca and Tubelle, assigning Baca to the number one game and Tubelle to the number two spot. This decision created a slight upset with Tubelle, and almost caused him to quit the team.

"I usually play number one, and for this match Tony told me he was playing Matt Baca number one...and he's never beaten me...so I was upset that (Tony) put him ahead of me," said Tubelle.

Baca played aggressively in the number one position, but his efforts were in vain. His forceful hits won him the first set, but his opponent's performance became better as the match proceeded, and Baca ended up losing.

"I think I played my best in the first set, but I think (my opponent) picked it up in the second and third (sets)...but it was a good match," said Baca.

Despite their two losses against Campolindo, Acalanes is still confident in their chances of winning league, expecting to win the rest of their games of the season including two against Miramonte.

Blueprint Photo: Will McCosker

BASEBALL

Acalanes Dons' 5-2 in League

By Jason Ahn
Staff Writer

The Acalanes victory train keeps on chugging through their futile opponents, beating Las Lomas, Miramonte, Benicia, and Dublin; they've only made two minor stops at Concord and Campolindo.

On Apr. 11, the Dons' crushed the Knights with a phenomenal score of 7-2, giving up two runs in the last inning.

"I'm happy with seven [runs], but we can still score more," said Acalanes coach Dave Borghi.

Starting pitcher Eric B. Lee, was unanimously exalted as the most valuable player of the game. He pitched an amazing six innings, striking out twelve Knights.

The score keeper/statistician of the Las Lomas team, Bob Scheer, commented that Lee "spotted the ball, moved it around, changed the speeds, and had a lot of the Las Lomas batters thinking wrong; thinking incorrectly at every bat."

Assistant coach Hennessy, for Las Lomas, said the Dons' "play catch and that's why they win."

Acalanes was successful against Miramonte, Benicia and Dublin and came away from Concord and Campo with losses, and they are now 12-2 overall and 5-2 in league.

"We're playing ok. Each game was so different. Miramonte was a one run win and Concord was a one run loss. Everything we did right in the Miramonte game we did wrong in the Concord game," said Borghi.

The Dons' played well against the teams and their awesome pitching and hitting were key factors in their success.



Junior Joe Bruzzone swings and hits a fly ball into the outfield in a recent game.

"[In the games against] Dublin and Benicia, we had great at bats...we've been getting really good pitching. We just need to find a way to score some more runs once in a while," said coach Borghi.

Batting against the Mats' left handed ace pitcher, the Dons' were not even phased. Eric Lee pitched against the Mats to win 2-1. The Dons' scored their two runs in the third inning which was enough to secure the win.

Benicia was blown out of the water by the Dons', 9-3 in a slugfest by the Dons' and the walks by Benicia.

Playing at Concord, the Dons' did not perform well and they lost surprisingly against to the last place Minutemen.

On Apr. 6, versus Dublin, the key player for the Dons' was undeniably the starting pitcher, senior John Derne in the Dons' 7-3 victory. Through three solid innings, Derne gave up only four hits and he batted a perfect 2-2 with three RBI's and a run scored.

After the third inning, relief pitchers Kolar and sophomore Tom Rosemeyer sealed the win with impeccable pitching. The Dublin coach said a factor that contributed to their crushing loss was the Dublin pitcher's shin splints.

The Campolindo Cougars succeeded in ending the Dons' seven game winning streak with a score of 2-1, achieving this score with only two hits.

There was much controversy about the umpires' officiating which led to arguments between the coaches and the umpires.

Borghi's emotions were heated up in the argument and the umpire did not put up with the arguing and ejected him from the game.

"That was when we knew we had to keep pressing on," said second baseman Cory Timbers.

The fans of the Dons' were very vocal during the game, and were very unhappy with the calls made by the umpires.

In the closing minutes of the game, the reliever for the Dons gave up a line drive hit to right field. The ball bulleted through the air, and brought the final run home, giving the Dons' the loss.

"It was a good game until the seventh inning," said Peter Min, an avid Cougar fan.

Despite the drama at Campolindo, the Dons' pitching still strikes fear into the hearts of the opposing batters and will continue to help the team flourish to new levels of excellence.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Mats Serve the Dons Defeat

By Jenny Jun
Staff Writer

The Acalanes boys volleyball team lost some bounce to their bumps and spring to their spikes as they suffered an agonizing defeat to Miramonte on March 29, 4-15, 11-15, 15-12, 12-15. Although the Dons lost to a huge rival, they have been successful in maintaining a league record of 4-2.

Miramonte came out strong with impressive hitting to take an early 10-0 lead. A frustrated Acalanes team made several hitting and passing errors that helped the Mats heat up. Jump serves by senior Mason Wodhams contributed to a Dons comeback, but the Dons still trailed 14-3. The Mats breezed through the first game, 15-4.

Powerful Miramonte hitters spiked through the Acalanes block and took the lead 10-3 in the second game. Senior Darryl Wong scored three consecutive points with tough serves to narrow the Mats' lead 10-6. Sophomore Mike McNeil also added two kills towards the end, but the Mats prevailed over the Dons for another victory, 15-11.

As the Dons teetered on the verge of defeat, they put out a valiant effort in the third game.

"I was really proud of them for not folding after the first game," said Acalanes Varsity Coach Jim Changaris. Although Miramonte came out with an early 4-0 lead, the Dons were finally able to get the lead at 7-6. The comeback was fueled by juniors Josh Edlinger and Bill Kallio and a powerful double block of Edlinger and Wodhams. The Mats communication started to break down and the Dons used their rivals' weakness to extend their lead to 10-6. A sneaky tip over the net by senior Eric Lee clinched an Acalanes victory, 15-12.

Both teams came out fired up in Game 4, hitting aggressively and both seeking a win. Acalanes had control for most of the game. With the Dons in the lead at 12-8, the frustrated Mats took a time-out. After a quick pep talk by their coach, Miramonte started to catch up and overpowered the Dons, who were unable to score for the rest of the game. The Mats sealed Dons' fate with a 15-12 win.

"Acalanes is a scrappy team and they gave us a run for our money," said Mira-

monte senior player Blake Beal.

The Dons suffered from a painful scratch when they lost to the Campo Cougars on March 24; 16-14, 13-15, 6-15, 8-15.

"Acalanes has a good squad and our next match is also going to be another battle," said Campo coach Joe McGuire.

In the first game, Acalanes and Campo were equally matched. The lead changed when the Dons were able to pull ahead 8-5 with two consecutive kills by Kallio, forcing a nervous Campo team to take a time-out. The score became tied at 11-11 when Campo started passing accurately and the Dons made several hitting errors. At 14-14, a series of side-outs and Campo missed serves finally had both teams exchanging ball control for a long time without either team earning any points. Edlinger was rejected by Campo, but answered with a huge kill. Lee contributed with a block, helping the Dons take the lead 15-14 and the victory was clinched with a Campo hitting error, and the Dons won 16-14.

The Cougars jumped out to an early 3-1 lead, seeking revenge for the first game loss. With luck on Campo's side, they were able to get a miracle return over the net while the Dons just stared as the ball plummeted to the floor. The Dons were able to catch up, with an Edlinger kill making it 7-7. Campo was able to come back and trail only by one point at 12-13 because of miscommunication by Acalanes. After a persistent rally, the Dons managed to sideout at 13-13, but a Campo sideout propelled the Cougars into a win 15-13.

Carrying over their momentum from Game 2 into Game 3, Campo took the early lead 7-1, while the Dons finally managed to get a point due to a Campo hitting error. The Cougars took a huge lead, pushing the score to 11-2. The Dons were able to score a few points, but Campo left

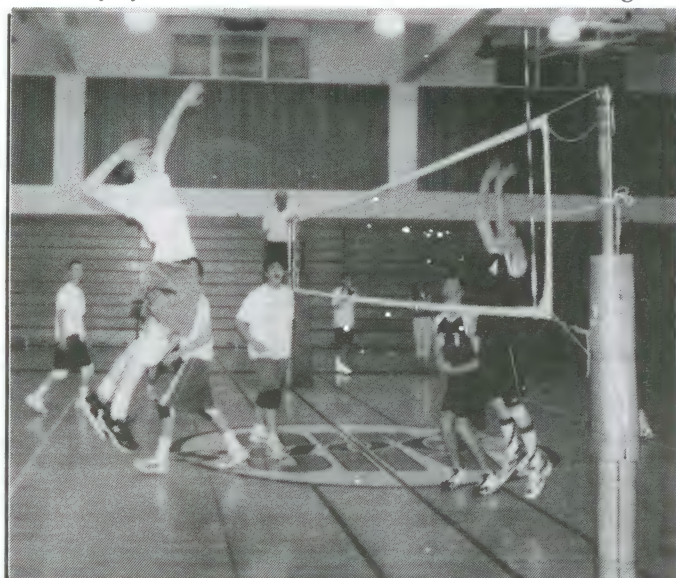
them trailing in the dust with a win of 15-6. Campo also won the fourth game, 15-8.

"We have to learn by our mistakes and move forward... This is also a good wake-up call to tell ourselves we have to work harder at practices," said Changaris.

In its first league match on March 22, Acalanes sent the Alhambra Bulldogs to the kennel with a win of 15-0, 15-1, and 15-5.

An Alhambra fan yelled out, "You're in for a world of hurt Acalanes," but was soon quieted when the Dons easily took the first game because of many Alhambra net violations and passing errors. In the second game, Edlinger scored the first point with a stealthy slide that left Alhambra staring. Kallio had three consecutive kills making it 5-0 and senior Austin Feren added three service points, propelling the score to 8-0. Alhambra scored their first point with Acalanes still in the lead at 10-1. The Bulldogs were plagued with bad passes and the Dons easily finished up the match with several kills and Bulldog bad passes.

Changaris feels his team has tremendous depth, and the passing this year is very strong. He also feels the Dons need to work on consistency in order to beat Campo and Miramonte in upcoming re-matches. "I think we know what Miramonte's weaknesses and with better passing, we'll be able to beat them next time," added Edlinger.



Junior John Wurzel stretches to kill the ball on the Alhambra defense. The Dons won 15-0, 15-1, 15-5.

SOFTBALL

Dons Strike Out Campo 13-0

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

The Dons enter their dugout peering across the baked earthen mound separating them from their adversaries. They take their tattered leather gloves and pass the spectators who shout war cries across the field and as the umpire brushes off the plate and the batter steps up only one thing passes through their mind...GAME TIME.

The Dons started off the new season with a respectable 2-2 record in league play so far. The Dons beat both Campolindo as well as Alhambra while losing to the colossal Benicia and Miramonte teams in two close matches.

In their first league game, on Mar. 21st, the Dons outplayed Alhambra in a great game winning 8-4. In this game there were many ups and downs and the Dons were able to suck it up and pull through with some great hits by both Robin Flier, who had three hits at four at bats and two runs scored, as well as Junior Staci Hamaguchi, who had three desperately needed RBI's.

In their second game of the season, on Thursday March 23rd, the Dons faced their arch-rivals the Campolindo cougars, but the ferocious Campolindo feline turned out to be nothing but a tamed house cat and the Dons skinned the cougars in a shut-out win of 13-0. Leading the slaughter was Acalanes star pitcher Junior Jamie Fassio who had only three hits taken off her that knight by using a wide variety of pitches including a wicked rise ball as well as a tuff curveball and

drop ball, but this pitcher played both sides of the game well also hitting in several RBI's. Also during the game

The Dons were in the game the whole time with runners on at second and third at several points but were unable to capitalize on the situation.

The Benicia game was very similar with a score of 3-0 in Benicia's favor. Similar to the game against the Matadors the Dons were unable to capitalize on key situations and the consistent Benicia team was able to pull off this important win because of the Dons fault.

Even though the Dons received mixed success during the season the Dons were able to pull together a key win in the per-season against the Piedmont team, that has been a huge contender in the TCAL arena in years past and in the close 6-5 win the Dons gained both experience and hope from the key victory.

The game was

filled with ups and downs but in the end the game came down to the seventh inning when the score was tied at 5-5 and Lindsay Jenkins-Stark hit a huge single driving in Carie Brueckner and winning the game for the Dons.

The season looks bright for these talented players, and with a record of 2-2 in TCAL its hard to say what will come next, but if you were to ask any player on this team losing won't be in any of their answers.



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

Junior Jamie Fassio swings and powerfully hits the ball into the outfield in a recent game.

Carie Brueckner hit in two runs and Robin Flier also came in scoring two runs securing a huge win for the Dons.

Then in the next week the Dons played the huge Miramonte and Benicia teams and were unable to come up with any runs losing in two hard games. In the game against the Miramonte team the Dons played their hearts out but were unable to pull it together and they suffered a 2-0 loss.

TRACK

Acalanes Defaults to Benicia

By Keenan Ng

Staff Writer

On Mar. 15th, the men's Benicia mile relay team lined up at the starting line on the track. Benicia trailed the Dons 66-65 and this last event would decide which school would be victorious. In the end, Benicia won. Not through competition however, but through default because Acalanes failed to field a men's mile relay team, essentially handing over the meet to Benicia without a fight.

"Ninety-nine percent of yesterday's track meet against Benicia was outstanding. In terms of the competition they did very well. Until the last event," said Head Coach Manny Myers. "To lose in a battle like that is fine. But to not even put in a mile relay team on the track is embarrassing."

Senior Ali Almufti once again took first in the 100m with a time of 11.38 seconds and first in the 200m in a time of 24.03.

In the long distance side of the team, senior Vijay Sekhon once again dominated in the 800m with a time of 2:03 minutes. This spectacular time and other performances like this, has gained Sekhon a spot in the fastest heat (a group of runners in a race that are categorized by speed and ability) in the prestigious Oakland Invite on Apr. 1.

"I'm really excited about the Oakland Invite. These are like the best guys in the state, which essentially means the best runners in the western region. It's going to be tough on Saturday," said Sekhon.

In the 1600m, freshman Alex Shogan took first, beating his opponent with a time of 4:47. Following the trend, sophomore Royce Anderson dominated the 3200m with a time of 10:35.

In the field events, senior Corey Hardin threw his shot put 48' 11",

good enough for first place and senior Brandon Blaylock won the long jump with a distance of 19' 10.5". Junior Peter Lennon won the high jump with a height of 5' 10" and senior David Woodworth won the triple jump with a jump of 4' 4".

On the other side of the meet, the girls had a resounding victory over Benicia, 89-47.

In the 400m, senior Megan Allen dominated with a time of 1:04.35.

For the long distance crew, senior Shelly Matsutani took first in the 800m with a time of 2:37 and in the 3200m, senior Sumi Kim eliminated her competition with a time of 13:15.

In the field events, junior Samantha Skarl won the discus with a throw of 114ft 1in and junior Kathleen Walsh won the high jump with a leap of 4ft 2in. Senior Kristen Green had a fabulous day winning both the long jump with a distance of 15' 7 1/2" and the triple jump in a jump of 33' 6". Senior Elise Dieden also had a good day winning the pole vault with a height of 8 feet.

A week later, on March 22, Acalanes visited the town of Moraga and took on Campolindo. Needless to say, Campo was left whimpering for mercy as both varsity teams creamed the Cougars. The men with a score of 90-46, and the women with a score of 73-63.

The day started off well for the men as their 400m relay team, which includes an all senior team of Karl Salocks, Kai Salocks, Almufti and Blaylock, beat Campo with a time of 45.9 seconds.

In the 100m Almufti once again



Senior Dave Woodworth soars to new lengths in the long jump event in a recent away meet.

took first with a time of 11.4 sec. He later duplicated his efforts with a victory in the 200m in 23.9 sec.

In the 800m, Sekhon once again took first with a relatively slow time of 2:11, but made up for it in the 1600m with a fantastic 4:41.

In the 300m hurdles, freshman Pauley Cruickshank took first with a time of 44.5.

In the 3200m, sophomore Royce Anderson raced to first place, finishing with a time of 10:47.

In the field events, the Dons once again dominated. In the shot put, Hardin threw for first with a distance of 47' 3 3/4" and junior pole vaulter Josh Ward took first with a height of 12 feet. Woodworth also did well that day winning in three events. For the high jump he jumped for a height of 6' 3". In the triple jump he jumped 42' 10 1/2" and in the long jump he distanced at 18' 10".

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PRO-SPORTS

Retirement Ushering in New Era of Sports

By Alex Gallo
Staff Writer

Dan Marino called it quits three weeks ago adding to the list of big stars that are turning over their league to younger and unproven stars. In the last few years, several big athletes with household names are retiring leaving their respected leagues wondering who will take their place.

Marino represented much more than the passing records he broke. He represented all that is good in today's sports world. He went to work everyday busting his butt in the hopes of a championship. In his 16 years in the league, he never bashed his teammates or showed up late to meetings. He did what he was supposed to do to the best of his ability. Now all the public will see of him is broadcasting.

The loss of Marino will hurt the NFL as well as the Miami Dolphins. However, he is one of several stars to leave their sport. Marino left one year after his rival John Elway departed. Jerry Rice, maybe the great-

est player in NFL history could announce his retirement this year. Barry Sanders, one of the greatest running backs ever also retired.

The NBA lost the greatest marketing player in sports history in Michael Jordan. For the first time in a while, the NBA isn't quite sure who the best player in the league is. They don't have a poster boy anymore. Sure there are players like Shaquille O'Neil, Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson but none of them compare to Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson. The NBA also lost Clyde Drexler and Joe Dumars. Every year the NBA labels a player as the next Michael Jordan. Last year, it was Kobe Bryant. This year, it is Vince Carter.

Hockey also lost one of the most famous names in the world in Wayne Gretsky. The great one is finally leaving and the NHL is forced to walk on unfamiliar territory. The dominator is also retiring at the end of this year. Who does that leave as the best player? There are too many too list.

Baseball lost Wade Boggs, a man

who had more than 3000 hits in his career. Major League Baseball seems well stocked as long as Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa continue to hit the long ball.

Tennis lost maybe the best player in WTA history in Steffi Graf. Her 23 grand slams are a statement in themselves. Who will take her place as the world's number one women's tennis player? There are a handful of candidates including Martina Hingis, the William Sisters, Lindsey Davenport, and even Ana Kornikova.

Every sport has taken a big hit in the departure of one of the great athletes. TV viewing is down in football and basketball. While every league tries to promote an athlete as the next so and so, it is hard to lie. The public picks their favorites; not the league. While every league official says they are not worried about the future, they should be.

This is a new time for all of us. It's time to stop promoting and to start producing. They have talked the talk; now walk the walk.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Yippi Kay Yay!!! Dons Saddle Up

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

With swish of his tail and brazen gleam in his eye, W.F. Beau Bai's hoofs pound the stadium's dirt terrain releasing little clouds of dust with each rhythmic impact. Suddenly, with a slight change in rein holding, Beau skids to a stop, turns, and once again tears at the unrelenting stadium floor as he and his rider steal yet another first at the Feb. 17-27 Scottsdale show.

Atop Beau, rides senior Joanna Dahlhauser who's predetermined composure is strictly maintained despite the aggressive and powerful

movements of her purebred Arabian horse. Her body remains perfectly upright and her delicate hands maintain a firm grip upon the reins.

For this competition, Dahlhauser ended up taking the roses for three out of the four Class Competition, two Championship Classes, and a Reserve National Champion (2nd place) in the AHSA Reining Seat Medal Finals. Class Competition, Championship Competition, and National Championship are simply different level of competition in which the Class Competition was the lowest level at the show and National was the highest. Even though she competed in levels that are different, Dahlhauser's theme to which

she rides, "The Working Western" - remains the same regardless of what class in which she rides. "Working Western is just one of the themes in which I ride. In this theme, I am judged on how I hold my body; it must be upright and my hands have to be locked in position," said Dahlhauser. "I then have to ride the horse to the best of my ability like that and am then judged on how I can control myself and my horse." Dahlhauser is one of many horse enthusiasts in the Bay Area and at Acalanes who enters shows competitively. Senior Joe McKinley, who has been riding since the age of seven, also competes in shows. McKinley, however, rides in a style

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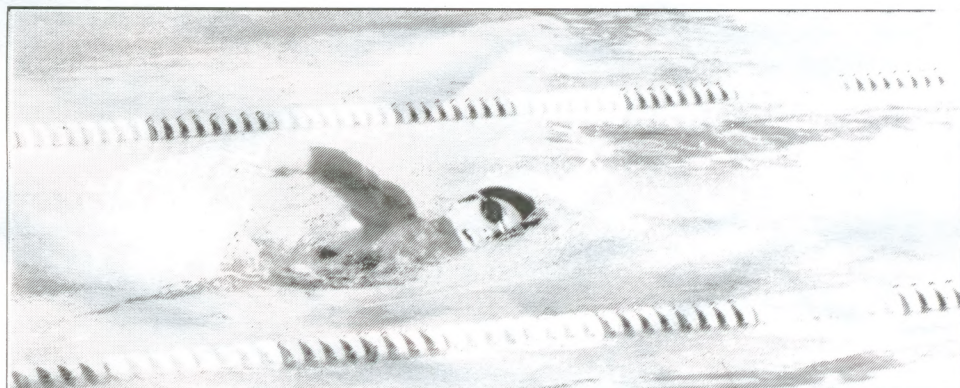
SWIMMING

Aquadons Dominate Clayton Valley, Benicia

By Quinn Fitzgerald
Staff Writer

A swim meet against Clayton Valley at Concord Community Pool two weeks ago proved to be an all-out slaughter. While the Dons were winning nearly every relay and most of the individual events, there was no question in the eyes of the participants and coaches as to who the dominant team was.

Clayton Valley Coach Matt Chamberlain tried to salvage some dignity after their defeat by saying, "At least we put up a fight." Chamberlain continued to defend his wounded team by recalling the results of last year's North Coast meet, in which they won. In response to this statement, Head Coach Jeff Miller, with an air of confidence said "It's a pathetic man who lives off the glory of the past." The following



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

An Aqua Don swims hard and fast to receive a high point award in a recent swim meet against Alhambra.

week the Aquadons again proved their superiority over Alhambra. Senior Pat Reilly said after the meet "I don't think anyone was even keeping score."

The team attended a dual meet against Benicia at Benicia. Dons Assistant Coach Ethan Green was so

confident of victory that he didn't think it mattered who swam what event. He even said "We could put all the events in a hat and draw to see who will swim each event and still win." This prophecy proved correct. Benicia was put to shame winning almost none of the events.

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TRACK CONTINUED

On the girl's side, the 400m relay team followed the boys with a victory. Consisting of Allen, Green, and juniors Allie Armstrong and Marimikel Charrier, the girls finished in a time of 1:05.

In the 400m, Allen once again took first in a time of 1:03.

In the 100m Charrier won with a

time of 13.4 and won once more in the 100m hurdles with a time of 17.4.

In the 300m hurdles, junior Jessie Plauche took first with a time of 50.4.

In the field events, Skarl won the discus with a distance of 97' 6", Walsh won the high jump with a jump of 4' 10", and Green won both the long

jump (16' 1 1/4") and the triple jump (34' 10 1/4").

The Don's next meet is the highly competitive Oakland Invitational, held at Edwards Stadium, the new track stadium at Cal, where some of the best runners in the western region will be running.

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HORSEBACK CONT

that is all together different from Joanna's.

"The difference between the style that Joanna rides (Western) and the style that I ride (English) is that we use different saddles, (the English saddle is generally lighter, smaller, and doesn't have a horn), we ride with shorter stirrups, and the position we ride in is different. Also, the saddles are designed to fit the respective styles of riding," said McK-

inley.

Dahlhauser first began riding Western seven years ago, and since then, by competing in many shows like the one at Scottsdale, has racked up a formidable record. This alone, however, may not be enough to keep her riding in college especially if it interferes with her ultimate goal of entering the advertising business. "Riding is not going to be a career for me because I want to study advertising," said Dahlhauser. "How long I will ride, I do

not know. I still want to continue showing through college, it's just that I don't know how much I will be able to ride my horse when I am in college."

Dahlhauser and Beau will have to jump that final hurdle when they come to it but for now, they have several other shows to look forward to and many more roses to win. With Joanna's experience and Beau's "horse power," they seem to make a strong team and will hopefully leave many more competitors in the dust.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

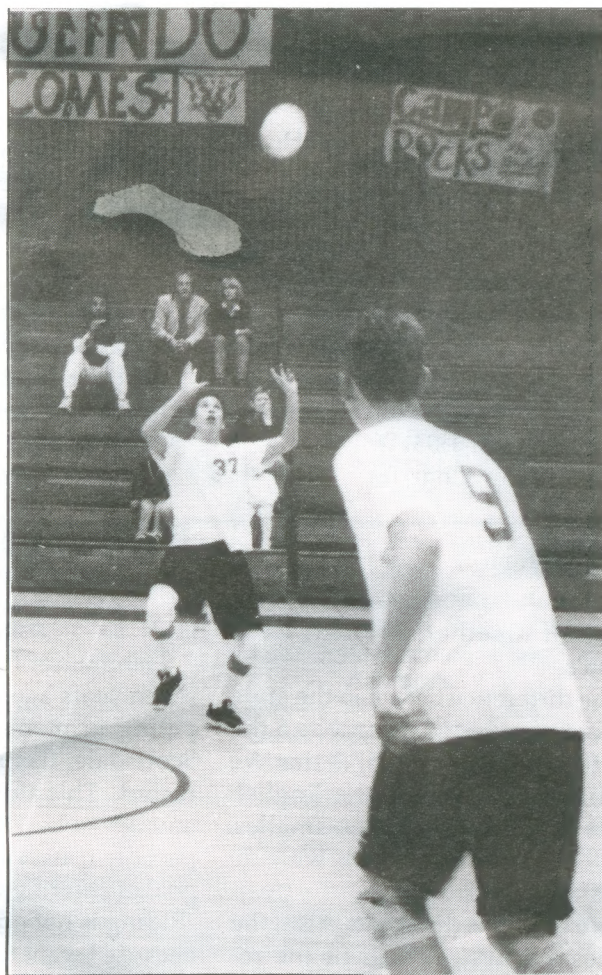


Robin Flier

Senior softball player Robin Flier was voted first team all-league at center field last year, she has an impressive batting average of .455, and she has been recruited by Vilanova College for her upcoming freshman year. Oh, and did I forget to mention she is this issue's Female Athlete of the Issue. Flier is the lead-off hitter because of her ability to consistently get on base, having the teams highest on-base percentage. Being the incredible team athlete that she is, Flier stopped playing her natural position at center field and filled the void at catcher, which was left behind by Kim Carter. "She does set a good example for the girls because she knows what it takes to play at the higher level. She is headed to college ball," says coach Bob Brueckner. In a recent regular season game against Alhambra, Flier played a pivotal role in the Dons' victory with two doubles, three -for -four hitting, and two RBI's.

Eric Lee

Senior Eric Lee has been on varsity throughout his entire high school career, and earned a place on varsity his freshman year because of his superlative passing and off-season training. In his first year, Lee started as a back-row player every game that season, and every year since he has added a new element into his offensive arsenal. Lee's setting ability improved considerably his sophomore year, and his junior year he started as setter on occasion. His profound ability to play other positions when the team is short-handed is imperative for the team to succeed. Lee's instrumental performance this year has helped the team earn a 12-5 record, and his team is striving for a North Coast birth this season. The team has won two division titles while Lee has been on varsity. "As far as coachability, he's great. He's a good team leader. He's just developing into an overall outstanding volleyball player," says coach Jim Changeris. Eric Lee is a co-captain on the varsity team, and he holds the honor for this issue's Male Athlete of the Issue.



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo